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'Friendship-88' Exercises Enter Second Stage

LD121015 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0830 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Magdeburg, 12 Apr (ADN)—The "Friendship-88" joint troop exercises of units of the National People's Army, the Polish Army, and the group of Soviet Forces in Germany today entered their second stage. After the units have achieved defensive readiness in the last few days, members of the Leistner major unit have been practicing since this morning repulsing opposing forces at the Letzling Heath exercise grounds. Members of the military and diplomats from 23 CSCE states are following and recording events with field glasses, dictation machines, and cameras. This afternoon they will see rear units working under field conditions. Here too there will be the opportunity for conversations with participant troops in accordance with the terms of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe.

23 CSCE States Send Observers

LD121514 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1220 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Magdeburg, 12 Apr ADN—The joint "Friendship-88" exercise today entered its second phase. The troops and staffs of the GDR's National People's Army [NVA], the Polish Army, and the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany achieved defensive readiness on previous days, and they have been repulsing attacks from the opposing side since this morning. The troop exercises in Havelberg, Potsdam, Niemegk, Magdeburg, and the Gardelegen area are being led by Colonel General Horst Strechbarth, deputy minister for national defense and chief of the NVA's Ground Forces Command. It is the aim of the exercises to perfect the training and to practice coordination between the troops.

At around midday there was a test for motorized riflemen and tank troops from the Leistner major unit as they once more had to hold their positions in coordination with pilots, artillery troops, and forces from air defense troops. Members of the Wolf Unit performed outstandingly. Before the start of the exercise, they had called on all participants to fight together for excellent results during the military test.

As Colonel Bernd Leistner told ADN, his soldiers had prepared themselves comprehensively. "They will prove that we take the military doctrine directed toward defense and the tasks connected with this seriously and are honest about our peace policy," he said.

The events on the Letzling Heath exercise ground were followed by 44 diplomats and military personnel from 23 CSCE states, who had previously been briefed on the situation on the battlefield. They observed the troops and forces with field glasses and made use of the offer, which goes beyond the terms of the Stockholm document on confidence- and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe, of using cameras and dictating machines.

The observers visited consolidated company bases, military technology in position, and a command post. They talked to members of Major Gerd Meier's unit, which had come to "Friendship-88" with exemplary results in training. The NVA soldiers answered the foreign generals', officers', and diplomats' questions.

Lance Corporal Andreas Kuehn said: "It is a good thing that observers from all over the world are here. They can see for themselves that we are not threatening anybody. Confidence is promoted by this, and I would like to see further progress." The 25-year-old painter from Zeitz will finish his reserve service in a few days.

This afternoon observers showed interest in the technical and rear safeguarding of a division of motorized riflemen.

U.S. Officers Inspect Activities

LD122237 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 2000 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Berlin, 12 Apr (ADN)—In line with the regulations for the adherence to and verification of the confidence- and security-building measures agreed to in the Stockholm Document, four officers of the U.S. Armed Forces inspected the military activities of units of the GDR National People's Army and the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany on GDR territory 10-12 April 1988. It has been reported that the GDR government granted a request from the U.S. government to carry out a military inspection on GDR territory in the Luebben, Wilhelm Pieck-Stadt Guben, Rothenburg, Leuben, and Wermsdorf regions.

In both its decision on the request and practical implementation of the inspection, the GDR adheres strictly to the Stockholm document. The arrival of the inspection group of the U.S. Armed Forces took place in their own aircraft 36 hours after an application was submitted. The four inspectors ended their work the evening of 12 April 1988.

As the inspecting state, the United States is now obliged to draft an inspection report and send it to all CSCE member-states.

Atanasov Continues Official Visit to Iraq

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN051821 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received Georgiy Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers.

During the meeting, Atanasov conveyed a verbal message from Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the existing friendly bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in various areas.

Atanasov also conveyed the greetings of Bulgarian State Council Chairman todor Zhivkov to his excellency the president.

Khristo Khristov, minister at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, was present during the meeting between his excellency the president and Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; the president's secretary; the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad; and the Iraqi ambassador in Sofia.

Begins Talks in Baghdad

JN052029 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Apr (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and Bulgaria began in Baghdad this evening.

The talks which were headed on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and on the Bulgarian side by Georgiy Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, dealt with ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and with Arab and international issues of common interest to both states.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and Georgiy Atanasov reiterated the eagerness of both Iraq and Bulgaria to develop the existing bilateral ties of friendship, the foundations of which were laid by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and Bulgarian State Council Chairman Todor Zhivkov during their meeting in Baghdad in 1980.

They also referred to the importance of finding new areas for economic, agricultural, and industrial cooperation that might contribute toward increasing the volume of bilateral trade and activating the ties of cooperation between mass and popular organizations in the two friendly states.

The first deputy prime minister reiterated Iraq's adherence to the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598 in accordance with the sequence of its operative paragraphs.

He indicated that the implementation of this resolution is an international responsibility, as this resolution represented the international community's will regarding ending the Iraq-Iran war through peaceful means.

He also referred to the increasing growth of Iraq's combat and technical capabilities and to the high degree of preparedness of its Armed Forces to defeat the aggressive Iranian attempts.

For his part, Georgiy said Bulgaria fully supports the implementation of all articles of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war without any preconditions to help establish an honorable peace.

The Iraqi side to the talks included Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Karim Hasan Rida, the under secretaries of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture and Irrigation, the chairman of the General Federation of Peasant Societies, the chairman of the First International Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Iraqi ambassador in Sofia, and a number of officials.

The Bulgarian side to the talks was comprised of Khristo Khristov, minister at the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations; Nikolay Dyulgerov, chairman of the Committee on the Preservation of Environment at the Council of Ministers [title as received]; the under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the director of the office of the chairman of the Council of Ministers; the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad; and a number of officials.

Meets With 'Aziz

JN061959 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has met with Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. In a statement to INA, Tariq 'Aziz said that he has discussed the situation in the Arab region and the Balkan area with the chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. He explained that he has reviewed Iraq's political and diplomatic stands on UN Security Council Resolution No 598 as well as the firm stands that should be adopted by the international community to confront Iran's insistence on aggression and its rejection of the UN resolution. He added that during the meeting they discussed developments in the Palestine question. He said Iraq's support for the Palestinian Arab people's uprising and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, was stressed.

The meeting, which was held at the Bulgarian delegation's place of residence, was attended by the under secretaries of the two countries' foreign ministries and by Iraq's ambassador to Bulgaria and Bulgaria's ambassdor to Iraq.

Talks End 6 Apr

JN071208 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1846 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The official Iraqi-Bulgarian talks ended this evening. The Iraqi delegation to the talks was led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, while the Bulgarian side was led by Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers.

During the meetings, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the positive results attained at the talks and also at the meetings of the joint committee and its subcommittees. The talks were held in an atmosphere of frankness and eagerness to promote the bilateral cooperation and relations of friendship that have been hoped for by President Saddam Husayn and Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov.

The RCC member and first deputy prime minister commended the high spirits shown by the Bulgarian side during the talks. He emphasized the solidity of the Iraqi economy, which is based on firm, strong, and advanced economic foundations. He pointed out that by raising the slogan of "increasing production in defense of the homeland," the Iraqis have managed to double production in the agricultural and industrial fields, thanks to the administrative revolution and the restructuring of the Iraqi economy.

For his part, the Bulgarian prime minister stressed his country's determination, in light of Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov's instructions, to promote its relations with Iraq on a long-term basis. He expressed admiration for the spirit in which the Iraqi people are continuing construction, war, and the defense and revival of their heritage. He said this spirit shows a profound self-confidence, confidence in the future, as well as great vigor.

The Iraqi delegation comprised Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Karim Hasan Rida, the under secretaries of the two ministries, and the Iraqi ambassador in the Bulgarian captial. The Bulgarian side comprised Khristo Khristov, minister of Foreign Economic Relations; a number of officials; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Baghdad.

Joint Communique Issued

JN071500 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1300 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA)—Bulgaria has reiterated its stand which calls for ending hostilities between Iraq and Iran and resolving the conflict on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

This came in a joint communique issued in Baghdad and Sofia this evening at the conclusion of an official visit to Iraq by Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. In the communique, the Bulgarian side expressed appreciation for Iraq's positive stands on the international peace initiatives and UN Security Council resolutions on the conflict.

The joint communique stressed the importance of the political dialogue between Iraq and Bulgaria and emphasized their mutual desire to continue to develop and deepen bilateral cooperation in various spheres in the interest of the two friendly peoples and also to serve world peace and security.

The following is the text of the joint communique: At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Iraq, Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, paid a friendly and official visit to the Republic of Iraq 5-7 April 1988.

Georgi Atanasov was received by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman and president of the Republic of Iraq. During the meeting, he conveyed to the president the greetings and best wishes for continued good health and happiness of Todor Zhivkov, State Council chairman of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. He also conveyed the chairman's best wishes for further progress and prosperity to the friendly Iraqi people. On his part, President Saddam Husayn requested that his best wishes of continued good health and happiness be conveyed to Chairman Todor Zhivkov and that his best wishes for further progress and prosperity to the friendly Buglarian people also be conveyed to Chairman Todor Zhivkov.

The official talks held by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, and Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, have been held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding. During the talks, they reviewed both countries accomplishments. They also discussed bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in the interest of the two friendly peoples and on the basis of friendship and mutual understanding and benefit. They voiced satisfaction over the successful development of existing relations between the Republic of Iraq and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, as evidenced by the agreements signed between the two countries at the head-of-state level and also by other governmental and non-governmental agreements which are being enforced.

The two sides emphasized the importance of the political dialogue between Iraq and Bulgaria and stressed their mutual desire to continue to develop and deepen bilateral cooperation in various spheres in the interest of the two friendly peoples and in service of world peace and security. They indicated that economic cooperation renders important contributions toward the development of bilateral relations and pointed out that there is a good

basis for expanding it in the future. They also assessed the bilateral scientific and technical cooperation and cultural relations and described them as good and successful.

During the visit, the Joint Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation held its 19th session. The minutes of the session, which outlined the major directions for bilateral cooperation in the economic, trade, scientific, and technical fields during the year 1988, were signed in the presence of Taha Yasin Ramadan and Georgi Atanasov. During their review of pressing international issues, the two sides stressed the importance attached to compliance with the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and the provisions of international law in dealings among states. They also emphasized the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of world states, of noninterference in their internal affairs, and of the need to resolve disputes through peaceful means to preserve world security and peace.

The Iraqi side apprised the Bulgarian side of the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war and of the various international initiatives which have sought to end the war and resolve the conflict between the two warring nations through peaceful means.

The Iraqi side has reviewed its constructive stands on these initiatives and its responses to them. It pointed particularly to Iraq's positive position on the UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to the conflict, particularly Resolution 598, as well as Iraq's complete readiness to implement the resolution fully and in accordance with the sequence of its clauses as it was issued by the UN Security Council.

The Iraqi side reasserted its readiness to end the war and solve the dispute in a comprehensive and just manner on the basis of the UN Charter and international law to achieve an immediate and complete halt to military operations on all fronts, with forces' withdrawal to the internationally recognized borders, the comprehensive exchange of POW's, holding negotiations, and noninterference in either country's internal affairs.

The Iraqi side referred to the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit conference which was held in Amman 8-11 November 1987 on the Iraq-Iran war and on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and on supporting the efforts being exerted to implement it fully in a manner leading to the solution of all aspects of the dispute.

The Bulgarian side reaffirmed its principled and constant stand calling for a halt in all war operations between Iran and Iraq as soon as possible and settling the dispute on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598. The Bulgarian side also referred to the role of the United Nations and its secretary general in solving the dispute. It expressed support for the efforts to implement this resolution. It also expressed its firm belief that the continuation of the war contradicts the interests of the Middle East states which, now, more than ever before, need to consolidate their ranks in struggle against Zionism and imperialism.

The Bulgarian side appreciated Iraq's positive stands on international initiatives and its response to peace initiatives and relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The two sides referred to the historic importance of the agreement concluded during the Svoeit-U.S. summit regarding the removal of U.S. and Soviet intermediate and short range missiles. The agreement has become an important landmark beginning the actual removal of nuclear weapons. The two sides referred to the need to continue international disarmament efforts and the establishment of a world free of nuclear weapons and other means of mass annihilation.

The two sides have expressed the conviction that the signing of the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on the reduction of strategic offensive weapons by 50 percent, pursuant to the anti-missile defense system agreement which was signed and endorsed within a period of time to be agreed upon, constitutes an essential step in this direction.

During the exchange of opinions regarding the situation in Europe, the Bulgarian side proposed the need for giving a political boost for the ongoing operations in the European continent on the basis of the experiences and expertise which were accumulated during the coordination of the articles of the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States on intermediate and short range missiles.

The Bulgarian side has acquainted the Iraqi side with the resolutions of the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers' meeting held on 29, 30 March in Sofia and affirmed the importance of implementing them because they will contribute to entrenching peace and security in Europe and the world.

The Bulgarian side has also acquainted the Iraqi side with Bulgaria's efforts to create an atmosphere of confidence, cooperation, and peace in the Balkan area and to turn it into an area free from nuclear and chemical weapons. The Bulgarian side noted the progress made in this field during the meeting of the Balkan foreign ministers, which was the first of its kind.

The Iraqi side placed a high value on the Buglarian contribution to reducing tension and to creating an atmosphere of friendliness and understanding in the Balkans.

In their review of the Middle East crisis, the two sides strongly condemned the Israeli expansionist policy against the Arab people. They also expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Republic of Iraq and the People's Republic of Bulgaria believe that a just, comprehensive, and permanent settlement of the situation in the region should be sought within the framework of an international conference on the Middle East in which the five permanent members of the Security Council and all concerned parties, including the PLO, will participate.

The two sides expressed their condemnation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon and the continuation of the occupation of part of its territory. They expressed their support for the Lebanese people's struggle for sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

The two sides affirmed the importance of strengthening the effective role which the Nonaligned Movement can play on the international level as well as its role in averting nuclear catastrophe, preserving peace, and removing the serious hotbeds of tension and confrontation in international life.

The two sides reiterated their determination to support all peoples and national liberation movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America which are struggling to achieve national independence and progress.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the official and cordial visit of Georgi Atanasov, chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers. They also expressed their belief that this visit will contribute to the continuing the development of relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields.

At the end of the visit, the chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers and the accompanying delegation expressed their heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the hospitality they were accorded. The chairman of the Bulgarian council of Ministers invited Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, to visit the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The invitation was accepted with satisfaction. The date of the visit will be set later through diplomatic channels.

Official Notes 'Flexible Attitude'

NC070730 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish
3 Apr 88 p 3

[Text] Ankara (HURRIYET)—The Bulgarian Government has moved to adopt a flexible attitude prior to talks between Turkey and Bulgaria in May, in accordance with the protocol the two countries signed in Belgrade. While assessing his country's position on relations between Turkey and Bulgaria for HURRIYET, a Bulgarian diplomat in Ankara has said that the decision adopted during the Bulgarian Communist Party Congress in Sofia last January for an "open policy in economic, social, and political fields" may be put into effect during the current year.

The Bulgarian press attache in Ankara, Simon Radoykov, has said that the Bulgarian Government has taken a number of steps on humanitarian issues, in accordance with the Bulgarian Communist Party decision. He added that the Legal Committee of the Bulgarian parliament approved a bill a few days ago to clarify "humanitarian" issues. Noting that the bill is now ready to be passed by the Bulgarian parliament, Radoykov said that the new development concerned "all Bulgarian citizens, including Muslims."

Radoykov placed particular emphasis on the following provisions of the new bill:

1. Passport regulations will be relaxed for all Bulgarian citizens who wish to travel abroad; and

2. The rights of Bulgarian citizens who emigrate and acquire citizenship from foreign countries will be reserved in Bulgaria.

Afghan Cooperation Commission Opens Session

AU121848 Sofia BTA in English
1732 GMT 12 Apr 88

["Bulgaria, Afghanistan: New Opportunities for Cooperation"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 12 (BTA)—The fifth session of the Bulgaro-Afghan Joint Commission for Economic and Techno-Scientific Cooperation will open new possibilities for enrichment of the mutual relations. This was stressed today at the plenary session of the co-chairmen of the commission, Mr Ivan Pekhlivanov, chairman of the Central Cooperative Union, and Mr Ghulam Faruq Kobakiwal, minister of Agriculture and Land Reform of Afghanistan. [sentence as received] After the review of the bilateral trade-economic relations, the heads of the two parts of the commission emphasized that they are undergoing positive, upgrade development. The barter has been increased, and the construction of small and medium-size enterprises with Bulgaria's cooperation continues. At the same time it was pointed out that new possibilities exist for the further broadening of cooperation in energetics, light industry, agriculture and mechanical engineering.

Economic Cooperation Session With Iran

AU121410 Sofia BTA in English
1340 GMT 12 Apr 88

["Bulgaria, Iran Expand Business Ties"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 12 (BTA)—"We expect very good results from the Fifth Session of the Mixed Bulgaro-Iranian Commission for Economic and Techno-Scientific Cooperation. The fact that the Iranian delegation

includes 55 representatives of the business circles is evidence of our interest in wider economic cooperation with Bulgaria," said Mr 'Abbas-'Ali Zali, Iran's minister of agriculture, after the end of the session's first plenary meeting, which was held this morning in Sofia. He emphasized that as a result of the intensified contacts in the inter-session period, a number of specific contracts were signed and two-way trade was increased. The Iranian minister said he believed there were very good opportunities for more active interaction in transport, mechanical engineering and industrial truck building.

The Bulgarian cochairman of the commission Mr Khristo Khristov, minister at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, also expressed confidence that the session will open up fresh opportunities for wider commercial exchanged and economic contacts. Bulgaria exports to Iran machines and mainly heavy engineering products, electronics and electrical engineering articles and chemicals. Bulgarian companies take part in the construction of small and medium-sized enterprises. The cooperation in the manufacturing of ICE and electric trucks is of particular importance for bilateral trade and economic relations. Cooperation is to be established in the production of electric hoists, in electronics (especially in personal computers and peripherals) and in the tobacco industry. Bulgaria is exporting to Iran considerable quantities of cigarettes.

Oil predominates the Iranian imports to Bulgaria, but the deliveries are gradually diversified by industrial goods: machines, light industry products and agricultural commodities.

Zhivkov Greets PRC President on Election

AU121159 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 9 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Todor Zhivkov, chairman of the State Council, has sent a greetings message to Yang Shangkun, PRC president, on his election to this post.

We value your tireless activity and contribution to the socialist construction of China and developing relations between our countries and peoples, the message reads.

The message expresses confidence that relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the PRC will further strengthen and develop, benefiting the two peoples and the interest of world peace and socialism.

U.S.-South Korean Maneuvers Provoking Anxiety

AU121849 Sofia BTA in English 1738 GMT 12 Apr 88

["International Peace-Loving Public Provoked"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, April 12 (BTA)—The Bulgarian public is following with concern and anxiety the annual U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers codenamed "Team Spirit", says the Committee for Solidarity with the Peoples of Asia and Africa in a declaration. This year's war games are held with an increased strength of troops and a larger amount of materiel. The U.S. Navy strike force is led by an aircraft carrier with supersonic nuclear-capable warplanes on board.

These manoeuvres are essentially a challenge to the international peace-loving public, they stay in the way of the sustained efforts made by the People's Democratic Republic of Korea towards a peaceful reunification of Korea, and they pose an immediate threat to peace and security in the region and worldwide.

All this is happening at a time when new political thinking has been gaining ground under the pressure of the peace-loving and democratic forces, and when a new approach has been taking hold in settling the major international problems such as regional conflicts and in preventing nuclear war through dialogue and negotiation, the declaration says.

On behalf of the Bulgarian public, the Committee for Solidarity With the Peoples of Asia and Africa resolutely condemns the U.S.-South Korean manoeuvres "Team Spirit 88" and urges their definitive termination, a withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and an acceptance of the DPRK's peace proposals, as well as the establishment of peace and tranquility in that part of the world.

Bulgaria Joins Convention on Terrorism

AU121513 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 8 Apr 88 p 6

[Khristo Zhivkov article: "Joint Efforts Against International Terrorism"]

[Text] The State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria has ratified the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages expected officially to come into force on 9 April 1988.

The norms and conventions of contemporary international law that are applicable under conditions of armed conflict expressly ban the taking of persons who are not directly involved in military action as hostages. Such provisions are contained, for example, in the four Geneva conventions of 12 August 1949 for the protection of war victims.

The effort to combat the taking of hostages in peacetime by various terrorist organizations and criminal elements, which is a cause of particular concern to the international community, has become specially topical in recent years. In this connection the UN General Assembly, on the basis of Resolution 34/46 of 17 December 1979, adopted the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages. This convention came into force on 3 June 1983. In the meantime 46 states have joined the

convention. Numerous socialist countries, including the USSR, the Hungarian People's Republic, the Ukrainian SSR, and the Belorussian SSR have also joined the convention.

The instructions of the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages conform to the requirement that the states should expand international cooperation in the development and adoption of effective measures for the prevention, prosecution, and punishment of all actions connected with taking hostages as acts of international terrorism.

The convention provides a definition of the crime of taking hostages on the basis of international law. According to the convention, "any person who seizes, detains, threatens to kill, to inflict physical harm, or to continue to detain another person (called hostage) for the purpose of forcing a state, or an intergovernmental or international organization, a physical or legal person, or a group of individuals to accomplish a particular action or to refrain from a particular action as a direct or indirect condition for the release of the hostage," is committing such a crime. The convention in both incriminates the attempt to participate and the participation in committing such a crime.

The convention does not apply if the actual components of the action do not contain any international elements. This applies to cases in which the crime is committed on the territory of one state only, when the hostage and the presumed perpetrator of the crime are both citizens of that state and the latter has not succeeded in hiding outside the country in question.

The convention contains the principle based on International Law of "extradite or punish!" which has recently asserted itself. According to this principle, the state on whose territory a presumed perpetrator has been discovered is obliged, without exception and regardless of the fact whether the crime was committed on its territory or not, to extradite the suspected person to the state that has requested his extradition or to transfer the case to its own competent authorities for legal investigation and prosecution.

As a shortcoming of the convention we can consider the provision in Article 9, according to which it is possibile to reject a request for the extradition of a presumed perpetrator, if the state to which the extradition request has been submitted considers that the request has been submitted for the purpose of persecuting and punishing a given individual for his political views. This restriction is in contradiction with the basic principle of cooperation in combatting international terrorism, that is, as regards the certainty of punishment for a crime that represents a great public danger. As regards this provision in joining the convention, our country issued a declaration which confirms the Bulgarian position on denouncing all forms of international terrorism, quite apart from whatever motivation might be put forward to explain the acts of terrorism. At the same time our country bases itself on the premise that the convention should be applied in a manner that will ensure the inevitability of punishment for individuals guilty of taking hostages, including their extradition.

The question of cooperation among states to prevent the crime of taking hostages is positively resolved in the convention. This involves the obligation of the signatories to adopt all possible measures to prevent the preparation of such a crime on the territory of their countries, including measures banning the unlawful activities of individuals, groups, or organizations that encourage, instigate, organize, or participate in actions of taking hostages (according to Article 4 of the convention). This position is in full conformity with the declaration our country has made on numerous occasions about readiness to intensify cooperation among states to suppress acts of international terrorism.

The People's Republic of Bulgaria actively participated in the preparation and adoption of numerous international documents related to the struggle against terrorism, such as the Hague Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, the Montreal Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Civil Aviation, of 1971, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes Against Internationally Protected Individuals, Including Diplomatic Agents, of 1973, as well as the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials of 1980.

By joining the International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages the People's Republic of Bulgaria actually becomes an active participant in all basic conventions against such a loathesome phenomenon of our time as international terrorism.

The fact that the People's Republic of Bulgaria has joined the aforementioned convention is a new confirmation of our country's readiness to struggle against international terrorism in all its forms.

Fruit, Vegetable Shortage Reported

AU121653 Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 11 Apr 88 p 5

[RABOTNICHESKO DELO report: "Decisions and Results Instead of Justifications"]

[Text] The self-sufficiency system is an important factor in the supply of agricultural goods for the market, regarding their quantity, quality, and variety. While the unfavorable weather conditions exerted a strongly negative impact upon fruit and vegetable supplies, certain shortcomings in the organization of the self-sufficiency system influenced the situation in 1987, as well. This was confirmed by an investigation conducted by the BCP Central Control-Auditing Commission in cooperation with the BCP Central Committee "Organizational" and "Agricultural" departments. The investigation's purpose

was to establish how party decisions in this respect are being implemented. This applied chiefly to the activities and responsibilities of Communists in leading positions in 12 municipalities of Burgas, Varna, Lovech, and Sofia Oblasts, in the National Agro-Industrial Union, in the Central Cooperative Union, in the National Self-Sufficiency Commission, and the Association for the Supply of Capital with Agricultural Goods.

What are the results of the aforementioned investigation?

In 1987 the quotas for consumption of meat and milk, fruit and vegetables were not fulfilled in a large number of the investigated municipalities, namely: in Burgas, Kotel, Pernik, Razlog, Srednogorie, and Gulyantsi. Those chiefly responsible for this are the chairmen of the municipal people's councils, the managers of cooperation unions, the local managers of BULGARPLOD and of the local agro-industrial complexes who have underestimated the problem. The result is that in Burgas, Varna, and other municipalities the required consumption quotas were not fulfilled, but on the contrary, the available commodity funds were over-drafted. Lower quantities of meat, milk, fruit, and vegetables were purchased country-wide because the production of these goods has decreased. The number of cattle, breeding sows, and sheep decreased as compared with 1986.

There are objective reasons for these shortcomings, but they are not sufficient to explain the shortage of fodder, for example, since the irrigated plots are not satisfactorily utilized. The same applies to shortcomings in purchasing activities, as well as in the fulfillment of contractual obligations toward private plots by the state farms, which were repeated over the years. The state farms failed to deliver 202,000 tons of fodder to the private plots by 20 February 1988 for example.

In the long run everything applies to the initiative and sense of responsibility of the cadres, to the organization of the entire activities pertaining to self-satisfaction, and to the increase of efficiency in this work.

This conclusion is also confirmed by the positive results achieved in several municipalities, organizations, and enterprises. All consumption norms were exceeded in the Elkhovo municipality, for example. The BCP Municipality Committee exerts a systematic control over the Communists working in the local people's council and in all organs dealing with self-satisfaction. No compromises are tolerated and strict discipline is the rule. The auxiliary farm in the Svishtov Sviloza combine, for example, produces meat, fruit, and vegetables which fully covers the needs of the 5,000-men strong collective. Hot-houses producing goods for the needs of the Sofia population were built in 1986 and 1987 with the resources of enterprises which joined the Association for the Supply of the Capital with Agricultural Goods. This confirms the well-known fact that, wherever people are striving to fulfill the goal they have set for themselves, they are searching for and find solutions instead of justifications.

The basic conclusion of the investigation is that in 1987 a certain animation, but no radical change, occurred in the work connected with self-sufficiency and the decisions of the BCP Central Committee adopted in May and November 1987, as well as in connection with the Council of Ministers decree of 23 November 1987.

The Secretariat of the BCP Central Committee, for example, instructed the National Agro-Industrial Union to adopt comprehensive measures to stop the reduction in the number of cattle, however by 1 March 1988 such measures were not confirmed by the Executive Bureau of the National Agro-Industrial Union. No fundamental change has yet occurred in the system of the Central Cooperative Union as regards the organization of purchasing. The National Commission on Self-Sufficiency has not resolved the question of increasing the number of cattle and the problem of producing more fodder, the question of using abandoned plots, as well as of restoring small vegetable gardens and farms, the question of supplying small-size equipment for the population, the question of plant protection, and veterinarian services for private plots.

The investigation was aimed at establishing the reasons for the unutilized opportunities as well as, on this basis, to adopt measures for the fulfillment of the tasks assigned by party decisions pertaining to self-sufficiency. We can definitely say that considerable clarification and organizational work was accomplished by party organizations and committees for the correct compilation of self-sufficiency plans and for the achievement of norms through a production increase. This is the approach adopted in 1988 by municipal leaderships in Svishtov, Pernik, Razlog, and other places. In most cases the country-wide norms were achieved through the plan. The following agricultural goods are envisaged to be provided on a contractual basis: spinach—200 percent; salads—153 percent; ripe garlic—200 percent, and green garlic—200 percent.

Measures were mapped out during the investigation in the purpose of comprehensively implementing the party decisions and applying Instruction No. 26 issued by the Council of Ministers in full with the help of a correct approach and with the cooperation of municipal leaderships, agro-industrial complex managements, and brigade leaderships, with the assistance of cooperative unions and cooperatives on a local scale, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the National Agro-Industrial Union, the Central Cooperative Union, and so forth. The measures in question include the sowing of more early vegetables, an increase in the number of cattle, utilization of underdeveloped and abandoned plots, building of small enterprises, hothouses, and farms, guarantee that the total production will be purchased. Recommendations were submitted to

the party committees for the implementation of a systematic and strict control, for holding personally responsible all those who are in charge of implementing the self-sufficiency plans and the consumption norms.

As a result of the decisions adopted by party and government, self-sufficiency work was considerably intensified. Contracts guarantee the necessary quantities of fruit and vegetables—the rest depends upon further care for their production. Certain municipalities and oblasts have not obtained the necessary amount of seeds for potatoes, while Plovdiv and Khaskovo oblasts have not sown all plots with early potatoes. The search for opportunities to provide the market with the necessary meat and milk continues. There is still a shortage of 304,000 fattening pigs and 6.7 million breeding chickens. The signing of contracts with owners of private plots, which represents a tremendous resource for additional production, is still lagging behind.

In discussing the results of the investigation, the work of the Elkhovo municipality leadership was positively evaluated. The same evaluation applies to the association dealing with the question of workers collectives' self-sufficiency in the sector of meat, fruit, and vegetables in Pernik, and to the work of the Sviloza combine in Svishtov. The attention of first secretaries of municipal BCP committees and of chairmen of municipal people's councils, of Communists engaged in responsible work at the National Self-Sufficiency Commission, the National Agro-Industrial Union, the Central Cooperative Union, and others was drawn to the existing shortcomings and unexploited opportunities. They are required to do everything within their power in order to provide the market with the necessary agricultural goods in 1988.

The accomplishment of this important economic, social, and political task will be a target of permanent attention for the control organs. During the third quarter of 1988 the Committee of State and People's Control, in turn, will conduct an investigation in all municipalities.

To provide for the constantly increasing material and intellectual needs of the working people—this is the essence and supreme goal of party policy. Social problems were the focus of discussion at the BCP National Conference. Party and government are devoting constant care to the consistent solution of these problems.

Under the conditions of self-sufficiency the responsibilities of competent organs and organizations, of leaderships in oblasts, municipalities, and townships, of managements of agro-industrial complexes, and brigade leaderships, pertaining to the fulfillment of production and consumption plans in the field of agricultural goods are steadily growing. Self-management means a transfer of power to economic organizations and enterprises, to the territorial communities. Power, however, means unity of rights and responsibilities. To solve these problems the Fatherland Front organizations, the trade union, and Komsomol organizations must engage in even more extensive and specific efforts. As usual we can expect the substantial contribution of the agrarian unions.

It is particularly important at the present stage to manifest optimal initiative and spirit of enterprise, and to efficiently use all economic mechanisms and levers, to take advantage of the great opportunities of the public economic sector, of cooperative and individual labor, by widely applying the piecework system, so that the agricultural self-sufficiency system, having already confirmed its vitality, may operate at full capacity.

Further Reportage on Husak Visit to USSR

Gromyko Speaks at Dinner

PM121443 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
12 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report "Comrade A.A. Gromyko's Speech" under the general headline "USSR-CSSR: Resolve To Strengthen Friendship and Cooperation"]

[Text] Dear Comrade Husak! Dear Czechoslovak friends! Comrades!

It gives me great pleasure to greet you, Comrade Gustav Husak, and the persons accompanying you.

Your present visit is considered in our country as an important event in the development of relations between the Soviet Union and fraternal Czechoslovakia. The talks which have taken place today have again confirmed a unity of principle in our approach to the development of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations and the coincidence of the main guiding lines in the resolving of the large-scale tasks which arise before our countries in the new stage of socialist construction. I think your current visit is a good occasion to recall the facts which shine like diamonds in the garland of Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship woven by our peoples.

Soviet people do not forget that Czechoslovaks were among the first foreign soldiers to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Army in battles with fascism at the main front of World War II, and Captain Otakar Jaros was the first foreigner awarded the title Hero of the Soviet Union.

There are sacred places of Soviet-Czechoslovak brotherhood where our soldiers shed their blood together. We remember Sokolovo in Kharkov Oblast where the first Czechoslovak battalion formed in the USSR started its combat with fascism and where Soviet and the first Czechoslovak servicemen who died on our land rest in peace.

A tall obelisk has been erected in a field near the the town of Milin, some dozens of kilometers south of Prague. There Soviet Army troops and Czechoslovak partisans fought with "SS" and Wehrmacht regular units—the last combat in the annals of World War II in Europe.

In the wall of a local church nearby one can still see an unexploded artillery shell that became lodged there—a sort of relic preserved from those days. It is rightfully called the last shell of World War II in Europe.

On monuments erected on the ashes of Soviet soldiers and the Czechoslovak people's avengers, who died in those places, the date of their death is written—12 May 1945—3 days after the great victory celebration. Thus, the echo of that first joint combat near a Soviet village could be heard near a Czech town where, in their last battle, Czechoslovaks and Soviet soldiers were together hand in hand and gave their lives for a just cause.

Many years have passed, yet the events in which our peoples become related by the blood they shed are remembered both by those who witnessed everything that happened and by their descendants.

The selfless struggle of the best sons of the Czechoslovak people against fascism, the heroism of the participants in the Slovak national uprising, and the courage of Prague which rose against the invaders and to whose help Soviet troops came, will remain in people's memory forever.

An inviolable alliance between our states came into being in the postwar period. We now have every reason to note the unity between our parties, our peoples, fully resolved to preserve and strengthen in the joint creative work the fraternal friendship and cooperation between the USSR and socialist Czechoslovakia.

The ties between our countries are steadily developing. We can be satisfied with their condition, with state of public contacts, and with exchanges between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the CSSR Federal Assembly. At the same time, life requires that these ties should be constantly improved further and enriched and that our experience, as well as that of other fraternal countries, in the important sphere of state construction and interstate relations should be attentively studied and mutually used.

Now, during the period of restructuring, the development of close economic ties assumes special significance. Tasks of further improving the structure of trade turnover and also the application of progressive methods of cooperation, in particular the further deepening of coordination within industries and specialization, the development of direct ties between the plants and associations of both sides, and the setting up of joint enterprises come to the forefront.

We are only taking first steps along this path and quite a number of unsolved problems are still to be found here. It is possible and necessary to secure scope to introduce all that is new and progressive and the deep economic reforms being implemented in the USSR and CSSR create the necessary preconditions for this.

Democratization of the country's sociopolitical life represents one of the most important conditions of restructuring. It can be said outright that the idea proclaimed by M.S. Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, "more democracy, more socialism" is taking hold of the wide masses of the Soviet people. The implementation of this idea, the carrying out of radical transformations with the participation of the working people, transformations that are in keeping with this criterion, will more widely open the creative potential of our social system.

The elimination of difficulties which arise along the path of restructuring is helped by one of its most important factors—glasnost, which is firmly entering our realities. The life and the activity of Soviet people in conditions of genuine democracy and glasnost can only strengthen our system.

The 19th All-Union Party Conference, at which the results of the work which has been done since the 27th CPSU Congress will be summed up, will assemble in the summer of this year. Among other imminent tasks, the basic directions for the improvement of the activity of the bodies of state power and administration will be mapped out. The question of improving the electoral system will also be on the agenda.

We want the Soviets of people's deputies to be genuine centers of socialist self-government, where all the basic questions of the development of the relevant territory, and the life and everyday activities of each family, are tackled. In other words, we want the soviets really to be bodies with full rights and powers and at the same time to be fully responsible for their activities before those people have elected them.

Everyone is well aware that Czechoslovakia is a country with a highly developed industry and bountiful grain-growing areas. At the same time, it is a state with a well-organized services sphere and with well-equipped towns and villages. There is nothing shameful in the fact that our comrades, in solving similar questions, should acquire the good experience which exists in your country.

The practice of daily life shows that all-around cooperation between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia in international affairs has become an integral part of the lives of our fraternal parties, states, and peoples. The exchange of opinions during the course of your visit, Comrade Husak, reaffirms both countries' resolve to continue and to strengthen our interaction in the international arena. The signing of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles has created more favorable conditions for progress along the path of real disarmament. The withdrawal ahead of schedule of Soviet missiles from the territory of the CSSR and the GDR testifies to our willingness to fulfill our obligations according to the treaty. This step of goodwill on the part of the Soviet Union and its allies can serve as a concrete example of our striving for a stable peace, the establishment of good-neighborly relations, and the advancement of the process of disarmament in Europe and throughout the world.

The talks in Geneva on a 50-percent reduction in the strategic offensive weapons of the USSR and the United States while observing the ABM Treaty in the form in which it was signed in 1972, and adhering to it for an agreed period, are currently at the center of the attention of the world public. One would wish to hope that the visit by the U.S. President to the Soviet Union, planned for the end of May-beginning of June this year, will be marked with progress in this direction also.

It is with satisfaction that we note the notable activation in recent times of the foreign policy activity of Czechoslovakia and of other countries of socialism, united by the spirit of high responsibility for the fate of the world.

This is why we fully support the initiative of the CSSR on the establishment, along the line of contact between the two military groupings, of a zone of confidence, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations. The implementation of this initiative would, undoubtedly, facilitate the weakening of military confrontation in Europe, and progress in the cause of building an "All-Europe Home".

The Soviet Union has stated on many occasions that it is up to the peoples themselves to determine their destinies without promptings and pressure from outside. It is only on the basis of such fundamental principles that the resolution of regional conflicts is possible. This also applies in full to Afghanistan, which is on the threshold of a long-awaited peace.

Today, as ever, the thoughts of the majority of people are directed to peace. How apposite sounds the wise appeal of Jan Amos Komensky, the great Czech pedagogue and thinker of the 17th century: "It is better not to start war but to prevent it through peaceful negotiations...enough of destructive wars which have brought the European continent to the brink of ruin...Politicians! Do all you can to preserve peace, choose peace, not war, as your life's goal!" This is a good appeal from a clever man of the past to the present-day generation of people! There are many monuments to this humanitarian and enlightener in Czechoslovakia.

I would like to finish the same way I began. Past events remind today's generations about the need to do all they can to strengthen Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship as one of the greatest achievements of our peoples. It gives them greater strength to work for the benefit of creating a new society and securing a more stable peace for all of mankind.

Let me express confidence that the CZCP Central Committee plenum which was held the other day in Prague gives a powerful stimulus to the revolutionary transition to intensive development, to the organic combination of socialism with scientific and technical progress, and to the achievement of a qualitatively new level of development of socialist society in the interests of the people. All this together can only strengthen the international prestige of socialism.

In conclusion Andrey Gromyko wished Gustav Husak and all the Czechoslovak Comrades present at the dinner great successes in solving the tasks of enormous importance mapped out by socialist Czechoslovakia.

Husak Delivers Speech

PM121140 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
12 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report on speech delivered by G. Husak, CPCZ Central Committee Presidium member and CSSR president, at 11 April Kremlin dinner, published under the general heading "USSR-CSSR: Determination To Strengthen Friendship and Cooperation": "Comrade G. Husak's Speech"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Gromyko! Esteemed comrades!

Permit me wholeheartedly to thank the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for the invitation, and for the cordial reception and hospitality we have sensed since the first moments of our stay in the Soviet Union.

I would also like to express sincere gratitude for the kind words about the Czechoslovak people and the CPCZ and for the high assessments of the friendship between our fraternal peoples.

The cordial atmosphere of our talks with Andrey Andreyevich, their constructive spirit, openness, and the total unity of views on all the questions discussed are further evidence of the lasting alliance and fruitful cooperation between our Communist parties and the indissoluble alliance and friendship of our countries and peoples. These bonds have become a most valuable gain for us, they have been tested in the course of historical development, they have their origins in sympathies toward the new Soviet state, and were sealed by blood shed jointly in the struggle against fascism, a struggle in which the Soviet Army made a decisive contribution to our peoples' winning freedom. In the long years of mutual cooperation in the course of socialist building these ties have been further strengthened, and are today the most reliable guarantee of our state's sovereignty and security and the Czechoslovak people's peaceful labor.

We regard our talks as the logical continuation of numerous talks between leaders of our Communist parties and states, an implementation of the results of last year's visit to Czechoslovakia by M.S. Gorbachev, a visit that imprinted itself forever on our people's consciousness, and a continuation of the talks between the general secretaries of our communist parties' Central Committees, M.S. Gorbachev and M. Jakes, in January of this year. In the course of our talks we discussed Czechoslovak-Soviet relations in detail. We placed a high value on the fact that mutual cooperation covering all spheres of public life has acquired wide scope and is developing successfully for the benefit of both countries' peoples. At the same time the mutual determination was reaffirmed still more intensively to seek a new quality in the development of cooperation and the deepening of mutual ties in the political, economic, ideological, and other spheres.

In our conversations we emphasized the key significance of achieving higher effectiveness of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation and strengthening it. In this connection we stressed the need to make more effective use of the opportunities offered by our vast potential and to move resolutely forward by making use of fundamentally new, higher forms of cooperation, such as direct ties between enterprises, the creation of joint enterprises and organizations, the expansion of specialization and production sharing, especially in machine building, and more profound coordination in science, technology, and other sectors. We are convinced that a milestone along this path will be the prospectus for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union for the period through the year 2000 that is now in preparation.

Cooperation in the sphere of culture, education, and science plays an important role in the cause of deepening reciprocal ties. Its further deepening will be promoted by the documents signed today, the "Protocol on Establishing an Intergovernmental Commission on Cooperation in the Sphere of Culture, Education, and Science Between the CSSR and the USSR" and the "Agreement Between the CSSR Government and the USSR Government on the Formation and Activity of a CSSR Culture and Information Center in the Soviet Union."

In the course of the talks we did not avoid discussing existing problems and difficulties connected with our entry into the new stage of cooperation.

At the 17th CPCZ Congress we outlined bold objectives and crucial tasks—accelerating socioeconomic development, ensuring scientific and technical progress, improving the people's material and cultural conditions, and deepening socialist democracy.

For us, it is of fundamental significance that today, as in the past, in carrying out the tasks set we can draw on the experience of the fraternal parties, first and foremost the Leninst CPSU. We find particularly inspiring the theoretical and practical results of the 27th CPSU Congress and subsequent Central Committee plenums and the bold approach and innovative methods in the revolutionary restructuring of Soviet society. They give us an example and support in tackling our own tasks and problems.

Making use of all the available experience, we consistently continue to develop and further refine the line of the program defined by the congress. After the Seventh CPCZ Central Committee Plenum, held last December, and 2 years of preparation, we have now embarked on comprehensive restructuring. The recent ninth plenum of our party's Central Committee reaffirmed this course of restructuring and democratization of society and mobilized the entire party to fulfill it.

Although the implementation of this program line meets with wide support among the working people, it will be no easy matter to put it into practice. However, we consider this line essential to the further development of socialism.

As we noted in the course of today's talks, our visit is taking place during a period when a positive influence is exerted on the international situation by the signing of the historic Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-range Missiles.

We fully support the Soviet Union's proposal to regard this document as a starting point for further important steps along the path to a nuclear-free world and the signing of a treaty on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive arms together with consistent compliance with the ABM Treaty and without allowing a situation where simultaneously with disarmament in one avenue, a race is developing in others. A convincing proof of the socialist states' good will to make progress in the nuclear disarmament process is the withdrawal of the Soviet OTR-22 [operational-tactical missiles] from the territory of the CSSR and the GDR even before the treaty's ratification. We support all efforts aimed at achieving a general and complete ban on nuclear weapon tests and banning and eliminating chemical weapons. We also attach fundamental significance to agreeing on a mandate for the talks which are to begin this year on a reduction in armed forces and conventional arms in Europe from the Atlantic to the Urals, as well as to the speediest successful completion of the Vienna meeting of representatives of the CSCE states.

We also see new opportunities in a number of other avenues leading to disarmament, the strengthening of trust, and the development of multilateral cooperation on the continent, as is stated in the "Appeal to the NATO Member States and All Countries Participating in the CSCE," adopted by the foreign ministers at their recent session in Sofia.

We regard the proposal of Milos Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, on creating a zone of trust, cooperation, and good-neighborly relations along the line where the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO countries meet, and also the statement of the CPCZ, the SED, and the SPD on banning chemical weapons as topical contributions of our own to the attainment of these goals.

The enterprising, flexible approach of the Soviet Union and the socialist community countries is meeting with increasingly wide international support and finding a response among realistically minded Western circles. The growing awareness of the need to tackle questions of international security in the spirit of the principles of cooperation between countries with different social systems gives us the hope that in spite of all the obstacles, it will prove possible to ensure peaceful prospects for mankind.

I am convinced that I am expressing the common opinion when I say that the course and results of our talks will help to further deepen friendly ties between our states and peoples and create the conditions for more intensive development of our cooperation in all spheres, in the interests of our two countries' peoples and in the interests of the cause of socialism, peace, and progress.

Permit me on behalf of the CPCZ Central Committee, the CSSR Government, and all the Czechoslovak people and on my own account to convey sincere greetings to the Soviet people and all Soviet Communists and wish you happiness and prosperity, peace, and great successes in the implementation of revolutionary restructuring and in labor for the well-being and prosperity of the Soviet Union.

Gromyko, Husak Sign Communique

PM121153 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
12 Apr 88 Second Edition pp 1,4

[TASS report under the headline "Friendly Visit"]

[Text] A. A. Gromyko and G. Husak held talks in the Kremlin on 12 April. Taking part in the talks on the Soviet side were Comrade Shevardnadze, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and USSR minister of foreign affairs, V.P. Lomakin, USSR ambassador to the CSSR, and other officials, on the Czechoslovak side were Comrade Chnoupek, CSSR minister of foreign affairs, Jindrich Rehorek, CSSR ambassador to the USSR, and other officials.

The sides informed each other about the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the 17th CPCZ Congress directed at speeding up the socioeconomic development of the USSR and the CSSR. Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko talked about the progress of the restructuring launched on a wide-scale in the country, the democratization and renewal of all aspects of the life of Soviet society, and topical problems of socioeconomic development of the USSR.

It was stressed that being put forward on the agenda as central issues are matters relating to the ideological provision of restructuring, reconstruction of the political, system, which proposes a more precise demarcation of functions of state and party bodies, removal of formalism, and giving new impetus to the work of soviets of people's deputies, and the strengthening of law and order and legality. The 19th All-Union Party Conference will assist in solving these tasks.

The implementation of profound qualitative transformations in all spheres of social life is helped by the adoption of a number of important laws, which are intended to bring the powerful force of the human factor into play. During their preparation the experience accumulated by socialist countries was taken into account.

Attention was also devoted to matters relating to the work of the USSR Supreme Soviet in further improving relations between the nationalities that is being carried out in a spirit of the unshakable nature of the Leninist principles of the nationalities' policy, and the friendship and cohesion of the fraternal peoples of the USSR.

Gustav Husak gave an account of the results of the CPCZ Central Committee April 1987 Plenum and the substance of the changes taking place in Czechoslovakia, the aim of which is to implement a comprehensive program of restructuring, radical economic reform, an democratization in all spheres of life in society. The CSSR president stressed that this demands new approaches to the style and methods of work of the CPCZ with the aim of further enhancing its leading role, deepening its links with the masses, and enhancing the contribution of working people to the implementation of restructuring.

The sides noted that the coincidence in common directions of the processes of restructuring in the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, despite certain specifics, is creating favorable preconditions for the further dynamic development of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations. Matters relating to deepening economic cooperation between the USSR and the CSSR, and to improving its mechanisms in the spirit of the principled accords achieved at summit level, were examined. It was noted that the intensification of the economy, the effective utilization of the achievements of the scientific-technical revolution, and the implementation of pressing structural changes in the national economy of both countries requires the more vigorous introduction of new forms of further development of ties in the sphere of education and culture, the expansion of communications between working people, the invigoration of contacts between twinned towns and oblasts and production collectives, and also of border links. Note was made of the importance of deepening the system of socialist self-management, with due regard for the specific features of both countries. This concerns primarily enhancing the role of representative bodies of authority, labor collective and social organizations, and the restructuring of the activity of the state administrative apparatus.

It was stressed that the broad implementation of the principles of democracy and glasnost were a sure guarantee against administrative and bureaucratic perversions of socialism. During examination of topical matters relating to world politics, complete unity of views in assessing the current situation in Europe and the world as a whole was confirmed. Gustav Husak highly commended the efforts of the Soviet Union directed at concluding a treaty on intermediate and shorter-range missiles, and at elaborating a treaty for a 50-percent cut in strategic offensive weapons. He also noted that the new political thinking—the need for the formation of which has frequently been stressed by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, should be applied in approaches to the resolution of matters of foreign policy, primarily its key problems. Such an attitude would onlyt strengthen positive tendencies in international affairs.

During the course of examining the range of European security problems, the sides expressed the hope that the Vienna meeting would come to a successful conclusion, and that political decisions would be adopted to further strengthen European security and cooperation. The Soviet side voiced complete support for the proposal of Comrade Jakes, CPCZ Central Committee general secretary, to set up a zone of trust, cooperation and good-neighborly relations along the line where the two military alliances face each other.

The resolve of the USSR and the CSSR to continue to interact vigorously with all socialist countries to implement the initiatives put forward by the Warsaw Pact member states, aimed at removing the nuclear threat and creating an all-embracing international security system, was emphasized. During the talks, regional conflicts, which are maintained and fanned by forces that are often situated far beyond the confines of specific regions, were appraised.

Comrades Gromyko and Husak noted with satisfaction that the constructive interaction among the sides taking part in the process of settling the situation around Afghanistan facilitated the elimination of impediments that have arisen in the course of the Geneva talks. The signing of the Geneva package of the agreement will take place in the next few days. This will exert beneficial influence on solving the national reconciliation problems within Afghanistan. The USSR and the CSSR expressed their firm resolve to interact on the international arena in the interests of strengthening universal peace and security.

The talks passed in a warm, comradely atmosphere, characteristic of the fraternal relations between the Peoples of the USSR and CSSR.

Soviet-Czechoslovak documents were signed in the Kremlin today, Andrey Andreyevich Gromyko and Gustav Husak signed a joint Soviet-Czechoslovak communique.

Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze and Bohuslav Chnoupek signed an agreement between the USSR and CSSR governments on the setting up and activities of a Czechoslovak cultural and information center in the USSR, a protocol on setting up an intergovernmental commission on cooperation in the field of culture, education, and science between the two countries, and also a protocol on cooperation between the USSR Foreign Ministry and the CSSR Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Soviet and Czechoslovak officials who took part in the talks were present at the signing of the documents.

FRG Urged To Limit Private Flights Near Border

LD121325 Hamburg DPA in German
1230 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Stuttgart/Prague (DPA)—There has been a political epilogue to the flight by a single-engine light aircraft which strayed into the CSSR. The Prague government recommended to the Federal Government on Tuesday to limit the "numerous flights" by light aircraft along the German eastern border "since these are threatening the calm at the border." [passage omitted]

CSSR Foreign Ministry Spokesman Dusan Rovensky told a press conference in Prague there are "a great number of such light aircraft" whose pilots are often inexperienced and who tend to fly closely along the border of Czechoslovak airspace. Because border incidents could thus easily occur, this fact is causing concern to the Prague government. [passage omitted]

According to Stuttgart police, the two pilots were questioned by the Czechoslovak authorities. There was no punishment. According to Bavarian border police the return of the aircraft is still the subject of negotiations. Following investigations, the border police in Selb will prefer charges against the pilots in accordance with aviation regulations.

Kapek 'Released' From Party Posts

LD121825 Prague Television Service in Slovak
1730 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] At today's session of the city committee of the party in Prague Comrade Milos Jakes put forward a proposal on behalf of the CPCZ Central Committee, that Antonin Kapek be released from the office of the member of the Presidium, Secretariat and leading secretary of the city committee of the party in Prague, in connection with leaving for well-deserved retirement.

At the same time Milos Jakes put forward the proposal that the session elect Comrade Miroslav Stepan to the office of leading secretary of the city committee of the party in Prague, who has proved himself able in many very responsible offices in the youth movement and the party. The participants of the session approved both cadre proposals after discussion.

Dissident Pavel Wonka Rearrested in Prague

AU130709 Paris AFP in English
2229 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Prague, April 13 (AFP)—Czechoslovak dissident Pavel Wonka has been rearrested five weeks after he was released from prison after serving a 21-month sentence, a human rights group said here Tuesday.

Mr. Wonka, 35, was arrested by police on April 5 in the Bohemian town of Trutnov as he made his way to a military centre where he had been ordered to appear, the VONS [Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Prosecuted] human rights group said.

VONS said that Mr. Wonka may have been arrested for failing to meet the restrictive conditions of his release from the 21-month jail sentence imposed for "incitement to rebellion".

Mr. Wonka was sent to prison on "incitement to rebellion" charges for putting himself forward as an independent candidate at legislative elections in 1986.

He was to face further charges after his release of breaching prison rules, but failed to appear in court.

Culture Minister Receives Catholic Clergy

LD121926 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak
1630 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] In Bratislava today, Slovak Minister of Culture Miroslav Valek met with representatives of Catholic clergy in Slovakia. Present at the meeting were: Dr Jozef Feranec, chairman of the College of Ordinaries in Slovakia and bishop of Banska Bystrica; Dr Jan Pasztor, bishop of Nitra; Vicars capitular Dr Stefan Onderko and Stefan Garaj; Jan Sokol, acting administrator of the Trnava archdiocese; Jan Hirka, ordinary of the Greek Orthodox Church; Deacon Jan Zabak, chairman of the Pacem in Terris Association of Catholic Clergy in Slovakia; and leading representatives of the Roman Catholic Church.

In an open dialogue they discussed some questions of study at the Faculty of Theology, study abroad by clergy for the completion of theological education, the publication and importing of religious literature, the teaching of religion, and ensuring charitable care for aged priests and nuns.

The representatives of the Catholic clergy accepted with satisfaction the constructive approach of the state organs to the solving of problems which are connected with the creation of conditions for the satisfaction of the religious needs of churches and believers.

The participants in the meeting were also received by Peter Colotka, premier of the Slovak Government. He emphasized the responsible and constructive approach of the representatives of the churches present, and of the Pacem in Terris Association of Catholic Clergy, to the creation of good relations between the Czechoslovak state and the Roman Catholic Church. However, he also pointed out the regrettable, illegal actions of pressure stimulated from abroad, which are in conflict with the constructive approach of official church representatives

and state organs as well as with the interests and needs of the church and believers. Their organizers are trying to misuse religious feeling for clearly political anti-Czechoslovak action.

At the same time Peter Colotka praised the selfless work of believers, their contribution to our joint work, and participation in the building and development of socialism.

In his thanks for being received Dr Jozef Feranec, chairman of the College of Ordinaries of Slovakia and bishop of Banska Bystrica, on behalf of church associations of clergy and believers gave the assurance that they will help the creative healing process for better understanding by means of stoical attitudes, hard work, and active peace effort.

Summary of Jakes' CPCZ CC Presidium Report

LD090145 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] We now present a summary of the report by the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium on the party's work on restructuring economic mechanisms and developing socialist democracy, delivered today at the ninth party Central Committee session by Milos Jakes, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee.

He noted that despite all the complications, setbacks, and difficulties that had to be overcome, the Czechoslovak people had attained historic successes in the 4 decades that had elapsed since the February victory, that watershed in our modern history. The experiences of the great revolutionary struggles for the rights and interests of the working people convincingly demonstrated that the party always fulfilled its vanguard role successfully when it firmly used the ideas of Marxism-Leninism as its guide and applied them creatively, when it maintained an open and critical view of results achieved, and when it tackled problems and demands that were coming to a head promptly and consistently.

That fundamental lesson of history was particularly relevant today in the current effort to attain a qualitatively higher stage in the development of socialist society. From the conclusions of the December session of the party Central Committee, with which we embarked on an important stage in implementing restructuring, it emerged that among the paramount issues we must deal with, stated Comrade Jakes, was the work of the party and the application of its leading role in carrying out the important changes we have embarked on in the process of economic reform and the democratization of society. We are aware that the main driving force of restructuring is and must be the party, which serves the people. It is our duty to make a responsible and open assessment of how well the party as a whole is prepared for restructuring, and what needs to be done to ensure that it masters the new tasks. The importance of the issues being discussed is enhanced by the fact that the crucial conditions for a successful start to restructuring are now actually being created. This means we must free ourselves of ingrained views on a number of questions and overcome the kind of approaches more appropriate to a more laid back method of resource management. Without this it is impossible to attain a qualitatively higher level of socialism.

It is only natural that restructuring is the subject of very lively and deep discussion. The clear majority of Communists and other citizens deem it essential. Some—and there are quite a few of these—advocate that we proceed with great caution, while others say we are going too slowly, that there is more talk about restructuring than action. There are also those who wonder whether restructuring is even necessary at all. In this context Comrade Jakes pointed out that it was a long-term process, and that we are only at the beginning.

The answer to the question whether anything toward restructuring is really being done in the central bodies was another matter, however. Comrade Jakes briefly noted the main steps that had been taken, many of which were in tune with the established procedure already being applied. Among other things, he noted that today's Central Committee session had been presented with proposals for changes in the structure and content of the activity of the central bodies.

This matches their new, more rational arrangement and the considerable reduction in the number of staff. The whole thrust of these measures is to provide for a considerable change in the content, methods, and style of work along the entire axis of management, starting with the federal government. As a consequence of changes in the arrangement of organs in charge, buildings will be emptied and, as decided by the party Central Committee Secretariat, will be returned to their original use: above all, as flats and for social, health, and cultural purposes.

The Presidium report delivered at today's Central Committee session by Comrade Jakes then says that the Central Committee Secretariat has approved the approach of party organs and organizations to experimental checks of principles of socialist self-administration by working teams, and election of directors of enterprises and works. In a number of enterprises such elections have already taken place. It seems that in cases where they were well prepared, the interests of workers is increasing in the state and management of enterprise affairs. An intensive preparatory activity is taking place so that the federal assembly can discuss in June the law on the state enterprise and laws on the agricultural and nonagricultural cooperatives. The preparation of amendments to the labor code has been accelerated and its principles have already been submitted for public discussion and meet with great interest among working people. The amended labor code should become valid next 1 January.

The CPCZ Central Committee Secretariat, as it proceeds from its control function, has also dealt with solving a number of current problems that most worry people; some of them can be removed without any great financial means, without any exceptional demand for investment. Steps have been taken to improve supplies of textile and leather goods to the domestic market, and supplies of building material and metal products for individual housing construction to the population. The import of some types of consumer goods—color television sets, for example—will be increased.

Attention is being focused on the removal of shortcomings in the range of foodstuffs, including products for diabetics. Steps are being taken to improve overall the material-technical provisions of health service needs. It has also been decided to improve the care services and to speed up the construction of health centers for long-term ill people and institutions for physically and mentally handicapped children.

In the interest of a rational utilization of the housing stock, above all in Prague, an efficient system of registration of apartments will be introduced to remove illegal manipulation regarding them. This is what citizens rightly demand.

It has also been decided to simplify the people's contacts with authorities. In some cases the word of honor [cestne prohlaseni] by a citizen will replace the previously requested documents, such as the documentary evidence of a criminal record, various medical certificates, and so on.

Authorized car repair workshops will be introduced and they will take over care for the technical state of the vehicles they repair or check. In these cases, the duty of having the car inspected by the bodies of the Ministry of Interior will no longer apply.

These are first steps toward eradicating shortcomings and red tape, which people justifiably criticize. The complexity of the stage we are entering, said Comrade Jakes, is shown by the fact that in a number of areas outdated mechanisms no longer fulfill their function, and new ones are only starting to be used; in a number of cases they are running up against the barrier of inertia and old attitudes. It is necessary to correctly apply the leading role of the party.

The line of speeding restructuring and democratization cannot mean only the rectification of the accummulated problems and shortcomings or some partial refinement of the previously followed path of extensive development. What matters—and must matter—is a basic and revolutionary change for intensive development, organically connecting socialism with scientific-technical revolution, creating a qualitatively new state of socialist society in the interest of the people and for the people. Without delay it is necessary to put into motion all forces of society, to release all sources of initiative and activity by the working people, of the working class, of cooperative farmers, of scientific, technical, and humanist intelligentsia.

The view that restructuring is a reform that will come from above, that it will simply be declared by a certain date and everything will thus be settled are dangerous illusions, a cover for helplessness and passivity.

Restructuring concerns literally everybody and can be implemented only as a result of a joint effort by the working people. The CPCZ's leading role cannot be impaired in the process. On the contrary, its role must increase. The party must reinforce its link with the working class and the working people; it must make a change toward wide and efficient political—organizational, mass, political, and ideological—educational work among people.

Embellishment of the real state of affairs and the administrative ways of management that often replace political work are a serious obstacle to the influence of the party on the working people, says the report by the party Central Committee Presidium delivered by Comrade Milos Jakes at today's Central Committee session. We must not forget for a minute that the bonds between the party and the working class and other working people exists only when people see that we can implement along with them what we have resolved and said to them. The party's main function is to influence and direct relations in society and in the life of society through a clearly formulated political porgram.

The party's work methods must correspond to this political program. The party must see to it that state and economic bodies do not hide behind it when failing to fulfill their tasks. In the same way, it is true that the party must not assume the right to make decisions on behalf of these bodies in dealing with the tasks they are to fulfill. Party bodies and their apparat must realize that if they substitute state and economic bodies, they impair their own irreplacable activity, whether political, ideological, organizational, or cadre and ultimately the leading role of the party. On the other side, representatives of state and economic bodies must not forget that they carry full responsibility for their work; it is their duty to account for it to relevant collectives and superior bodies. Any substitution makes room for the growth of alibis, puts a damper on initiative, and weakens the feeling of responsibility. In addition, the criticism by the working people of various disorders and mistakes turns against the party, instead of against the real culprits.

Fighting substitution can, however, never mean weakening, but reinforcing the party's influence on events in society. New high demands on the application of the party's leading role, on raising the standard of political leadership in society put very much in the forefront the

importance of ideological work of the party. It is necessary to knowledgeably explain the problems of restructuring and democratization, to overcome the existing rigid and dogmatic views on the development of socialist society as a process free of contradiction resulting in efforts to conserve existing practices.

Creativity and activity must be brought into the orientation and methods of ideological and mass political work of the party so it is conducted in the form of discussions and dialogue, and does not avoid pressing issues.

Comrade Jakes also discussed the inimical propaganda that interprets the process of restructuring and democratization of socialist countries in its own way. He said we had recently witnessed the efforts of anticommunist forces—with the help of some Western media—to organize blatantly the creation of opposition groups, incite them to actions that create unrest and tension in our society, and even mask them with religious motivation. We must firmly repudiate these attempts. In our state all believers enjoy religious freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution and take part in religious life and ceremonies. Nobody is limited in this in our country.

We do not overrate the effort of our enemies, but we do not underrate them either. We have discussed this in the Presidium of the CPCZ Central Committee. What is important is to ensure that the party, Communists thoroughly informed about these problems, acted efficiently against these efforts and influenced citizens in such a way that the organizers of antisocialist actions—they are mostly cases of individuals—remained isolated in their intentions.

The law of the state applies to everybody, and whoever violates it must expect legal consequences, said Comrade Jakes at today's party Central Committee session.

The party Central Committee Presidium report goes on to stress that the economy is the main front in the struggle for the development of socialist society. The results we have achieved in this field since the 17th congress were discussed by the 7th session of the party Central Committee. The data on plan fulfillment for the first 3 months of this year indicate that there is a definite improvement over last year.

However, there continue to exist unfavorable trends and serious problems and shortcomings, due primarily to the fact that we are not attaining the planned objectives of intensification while we are meeting the quantitative ones. All this was reflected in a lower growth of social labor productivity and national income. While the congress expected a rate of growth in national income of 3.5 percent in the Eighth 5-Year Plan, in 1986 we attaiend only 2.8 percent, and in 1987 2.2 percent. At the same time, the planned 3.5 percent annual increase was not chosen by mere accident. This value must be achieved to satisfy the three categories of important needs; the growth in living standards and social development, restructuring and modernization of the production and technical infrastructure, and the country's defense needs.

It must be pointed out, however, that the use of the national income is being fulfilled in keeping with the intentions of the 5-year plan. Progress is in harmony with the social intentions, and living costs have essentially been stabilized; real wages are growing and personal consumption has risen. It is no longer possible to follow the path, as in the past, of using existing reserves. The funds for our further social development can only be earned. We are not retreating from the basic intentions of the 5-year plan, we are not giving up. On the contrary, we are galvanizing all our efforts to minimize, as far as possible, the deviations from the fulfilment of its specific tasks. We must literally step up the struggle for better economic performance, to achieve economical and highly efficient production and, in particular, reduce production consumption, stresses the report by the party Central Committee Presidium delivered today by Comrade Jakes.

The report goes on to point out that the party must lead the way in developing socialist democracy. In this connection, the role of the National Front, and activating that role, is important. None of the National Front organizations must be underestimated; every one has its specific place in our society's political system. The focus of lasting attention, as has frequently been emphasized, must be the work of Communists in the revolutionary trade union movement and among young people.

As for relations with noncommunist political parties, the leaderships of those parties have unequivocally welcomed the positions expressed at the seventh session of the CPCZ Central Committee. These relations are based on mutual trust, openness, and sincere cooperation. Mutual consultations and exchange of views and information within the National Front or in bilateral dealings, as was confirmed by the recent talks with the leadership of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, are a suitable and expedient method, and we will continue to use that method.

The development of socialist democracy and the principle of self-management affects the activity of the national committees on a wide scale.

It is necessary that they utilize their extensive authority for better satisfying people's needs, for improving trade and health services. An amendment to a law on national committees has been prepared that will increase their role further. Communists in national committees have the duty to assert democratic methods in their activities, to detect and solve problems of often high-handed behavior and decisionmaking in matters involving the needs and rights of citizens. It is necessary to ensure that the important decisions that national committees deal with are submitted for examination of the broad public at meetings of citizens.

The report delivered by Comrade Jakes then stresses that it is necessary to be more decisive in the strengthening of discipline, order, and law. What is necessary above all to be dealt with are various negative phenomena, such as the gaining of income without work; trends that strengthen individualism; in a number of cases the abuse of posts for self profit; and violations or by-passing of laws. Serious antisocial phenomenon are also cases of supplying false data about the fulfillment of tasks, Comrade Jakes said, and gave specific examples of enterprises.

What is also alarming is the fact that some senior staff have not even been able to speak against negative phenomena because they themselves took part in them or were involved in other illegal activities. Political responsibility, however, lies also with those functionaries who themselves were not guilty but knew about these illegalities and did not draw the necessary conclusions from them. The fact that these malpractices still exist shows that the letter from the Presidium fo the CPCZ Central Committee to party organs and organization on the deepening of efficiency in the fight against the violation of principles of socialist legality, morality, and discipline is not being implemented consistently. This must be changed.

A priority concern, the report goes on, is to be given to the quality, purity, and activity of party ranks. Since overcoming the consequences of the crisis at the end of the 1960's, and since the 14th congress, party ranks have registered a great numerical and qualitative upward trend. Today there are in the CPCZ ranks 1,717.016 members and candidate members. The party has a good age and social composition. The level of communist education has increased considerably—nearly two-thirds of the members and candidate members are workers by origin. This is in harmony with the line of the congress toward strengthening the workers' character in the party.

It must be noted, however, that among young workers interest in joining the party is decreasing, and most of those who leave the party are also workers. It is necessary to place primary emphasis on the quality of new members and candidate members. The choice should be oriented at workers and technical intelligentsia, above all in factories, building sites, and in scientific institutes—and at scientific workers, health services workers, doctors and nurses, at high schools at the best students and teachers. In short, everywhere at pivotal professions. It is in principle necessary to stress the questions of activity and exemplary behavior of Communists. Based on the experience of party organs, there are many members who are passive. They reduce their activities and their duties to the payment of membership fees and attendance of meetings.

There is no place in the party for paper members, so to speak. It is necessary to create consistently conditions for each Communist to speak out openly, to take an active part in the work of his primary organization. It is our duty to wage a struggle to improve the health of party life, against opportunism, liberalism, formal membership and passivity, for the increase of implementation and ability in the party and its influence on the working masses.

In the conscience of each Communist, the feeling of personal responsibility should be anchored—it would strengthen if he is systematically entrusted with specific tasks and accounts for his work to a party team—regardless of the post he holds.

It is necessary to comprehensively strengthen the role and action ability of primary organizations in the party, the Presidium report continues. Tasks that must be solved require a creative approach toward implementation of resolutions of higher organs. It should not be expected that directives and recipes will be issued for everything on how to approach individual cases. Senior functionaries must be able to act independently. Attention must be turned, above all, to strengthening the role, independence, and action ability of primary party organizations. From them come all the important questions of the practical implementation of tasks of restructuring and democratization.

We appreciate, Comrade Jakes stressed, that Communists at annual members' meetings have expressed support for the course started after the 17th congress and the conclusions of the 7th Central Committee session. A characteristic feature of the majority of party organizations was seen in the greater frankness and criticism. Certain changes in committees of primary organizations took places at annual member meetings. Secret ballots were held in 4.8 percent of the organizations, and 136 committee members, including 60 comrades being considered for the posts of chairman, were not elected in them.

Experiences on the whole show that a considerable part of the functionaries and members do not yet see the secret ballot as a manifestation of deeper democracy. It will be necessary to pay much greater attention to this. Not all annual member meetings were an impulse to such an extent for specific deeds, for activities and initiative in fulfilling tasks of restructuring. At many places the deeply rooted formalism, stereotypes, and inertia manifested themselves. A weak point in many annual member meetings was that they did not stress the need for a consistent observation of party rules and the need to draw the necessary conclusions where they are being violated. The need to strengthen the role of primary organizations in such a way that they act with initiative as a political core of working teams is increasingly coming to the foreground.

An important role is played by party organizations in setting up organs of socialist self-administration in enterprises and in the development of their activities. This is being tested experimentally. It is necessary to ensure, the

Presidium report says, that experienced workers; important designers; technicians, communist and nonparty members; members of other political parties; people devoted to socialism with natural authority among working people; functionaries of party, trade unions, and other social organizations are elected to organs of self-administration.

Party organizations face difficult tasks, especially in the period of transition toward a new economic mechanism when the new mechanism is not yet in full operation. It will be necessary to resist speculation at the expense of society's interests and to overcome trends of relying only on automatic work of instruments of the new mechanism. We must be aware of the fact that the process of restructuring in the economic and social spheres will not be without problems.

It is impossible to expect everyone to agree with everything and that all will actively support the necessary changes. Let us look, for example, at the overcoming of egalitarianism. Experience shows that even the right thing cannot be pushed through if there is no courage to stand up to all those who are accustomed to being paid a wage and even a bonus, even for poor quality work. In this connection we must put greater emphasis on increasing the role of foremen, on strengthening their position in working teams.

The report then deals with activities of primary organizations in central organs where important changes are envisaged. From ministers and other senior workers of central organs, each Communist in these organs and from departments of the CPCZ Central Committee is expected to fully understand the essence and meaning of changes and to ensure a consistent approach in fulfilling the set tasks. The rationalization of central management will be linked, as has been already stated, with transfer of workers. It has been decided to create conditions so that those who will be transferred can use their abilities. At the same time, it is necessary to utilize the training of these workers for the cadre strengthening of the entire axis of management from the center to enterprises. Problems that we are dealing with increase the demand considerably on activity of territorial organs of the party. The role of district party committees, which directly influence the efficiency of work of primary organizations and create conditions for the broadest participation of working people in the solution of key talks for the satisfaction of the needs and interests of the people, is coming to the foreground.

The activity of regional and district committees must be focused on key problems in their circle of influence. It is necessary to free them from the practice of regional and district committees expressing their views on everything, flooding sessions of their organs with too many problems, resulting in them being discussed only superficially. It is also necessary to overcome such discussions as when, who, on what, and how to speak. It is necessary at all levels to pay greater attention to the entire system of interparty information from the bottom to the top, and from the top to the bottom. Without the knowledge of how party policy is being received and implemented and what the present political atmosphere is like it is impossible to manage properly.

The report stresses that the Central Committee, too, as the highest party body in the period between congresses and as the political and ideological central body, faces the task of improving its style of work, so that its proceedings are more open and more relevant. The party Central Committee Presidium believes that work must be initiated on drawing up a long-term program for the party; in the light of the need to further develop the activity of the Central Committee it will also be correct to reassess its procedural regulations [jednaci rad]. The relevance of its proceedings will no doubt benefit from members and candidate members of the Central Committee being able to bring up, in addition to basic discussion speeches, factual suggestions and queries, and address them to the responsible functionaries and employees present.

Changes have also been initiated in the orientation of the work of the Central Committee Presidium and Secretariat. The Presidium will pay considerably greater attention to the life and work of the party and work out conceptual issues to a greater degree and, in keeping with the requirements of the statutes, the control function of the Secretariat is also to be strengthened.

A characteristic feature of restructuring and democratization is increased use of the principle of criticism in the party and society. There must be considerably better handling of the letters, suggestions, and notifications from the public. The needs and interests of all classes and social strata of the population must be better understood. In view of the increasing demands on the work of the party itself, the Presidium of the party Central Committee recommends that this very session resolve to establish a commission for questions of internal party life and, at the next session of the party Central Committee, to submit its proposed composition.

The party apparatus must make a marked contribution to the great efforts to attain desirable changes in the content, style, and methods of party work. The party bodies, in fact, need this because the party apparatus is an indispensable aid to them. However, the work of the party apparatus must be approached with much greater demand, and its quality must be raised.

The restructuring of our socialist society and of the party's work places new demands on the method of selection, training, and placement of cadres. Everything depends on ensuring that the most able, professionally and politically best prepared people with the desirable moral qualities reach the leading positions. The party

bodies and organizations must use their political influence to ensure that full support is given to those who not only want to, but are also capable of and know how to implement the policy of the party, National Front, and socialist state.

At the same time, this applies not only to Communists. In addition to Communists, it is necessary to raise to responsible positions people with no party affiliation and members of other political parties. We have stressed this principle many times, stated Comrade Jakes, and it must be applied to a greater degree in practice. Everywhere we must increase the scope for young people to assert themselves. It is desirable that well-prepared young people are promoted more boldly to leading posts in all spheres of life in society.

In this connection, it is necessary to democratize all cadre work. That is why we consider the principle of electing managers, using the possibility of secret ballots, a greater choice of candidates, selection by competition, but also the need for managers to account for their performance not only to the relevant bodies, but also to the work collectives and voters as an important part of the party's efforts to develop socialist democracy throughout our society.

It will be advantageous, the report continues, to establish the principle that the post of general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee can be held for a maximum of two consecutive terms of office, that means 10 years. As for the leading secretaries of the regional and district party committees, it would also be worthwhile to specify that these posts can be held for a maximum of three consecutive terms of office in the same body. In this connection, it should be ensured that in elections to all party bodies there is a healthy replacement of functionaries. Similarly, it will be necessary to consider the useful replacement of cadres outside the party too, in certain other sectors, and ensure that functions in leading positions are not allowed to accumulate.

We want to reaffirm today, stated Comrade Jakes at today's session of the party Central Committee, that our resolve to carry restructuring through to the end and implement it consistently and in all areas is irreversible. This is a policy that has no alternative if the great opportunities and advantages of socialism are to be fully developed and applied. We are pursuing the same objectives and following the same path as the CPSU.

What matters now, in the immediate future, is to make sure that in the deliberations and adopted conclusions of the coming district and regional conferences high standards discussed at this session are fully implemented. The report expresses a conviction that regional and district conferences will analyze problems in a matter-of-fact way, critically and with high responsibility, that they will contribute to the activization of internal party life, help concentrate the creative potential of the party and all society on dealing with the problems of restructuring.

The party's strength is in its unity, in a close link with the people. This is more true today than ever in the past. We will follow thoroughly this Leninist principle and act in its spirit. This is a guarantee of success and certainty that the line of the 17th congress will be implemented and that the CSSR will make a dignified contribution to the struggle for peace and social progress, says the report of the Presidium of the CPCZ Central Committee on the work of the party under the restructuring of economic mechanisms and the advancement of socialist democracy. The report was delivered today by Comrade Milos Jakes at the ninth session of the party Central Committee.

Soviet Missile Destruction Praised

LD131040 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0126 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Berlin, 13 Apr (ADN)—"NEUES DEUTSCHLAND" today publishes a commentary on the detonation of the first Soviet short-range INF missiles that were withdrawn from the GDR and the CSSR. Referring to the early withdrawal of the OTR-22 missiles, the handing over of these missiles' former base to the GDR's trade unions' holiday service, and now the missiles' detonation the paper writes: "The whole chain of this close succession of steps once more shows that we seriously mean disarmament. We are contributing constructively to the implementation of the INF agreement as soon as possible. Global tribute has been paid to our unilateral prior concession as a gesture of goodwill; as an honest, confidence-building measure; and as an example the other side should follow.

Above all we are demonstrating our wish that disarmament should now advance swiftly. The halving of the USSR's and the United States's strategic offensive weapons should now follow the destruction of the intermediate-range missiles. Disarmament should be extended to all other armaments, conventional weapons, too. The Warsaw Pact states put forward a comprehensive program on this in Sofia that does not avoid any type of weapon or any issue of verification.

The GDR will use all its strength and influence toward such a progression of events. On Erich Honecker's initiative the great international meeting for nuclear weapon-free zones will take place from 20-22 June in Berlin.

Western Lack of 'New Thinking' Criticized

DW130700 East Berlin Domestic Service in German 1712 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Guenter Leuschner's weekly foreign policy review]

[Excerpts] Only rarely have words found their place in political terminology so rapidly as have perestroyka and new thinking. Those who use the words in the West usually assume that such processes are merely socialist matters. [passage omitted]

Last week FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU said: The West has yet to have its perestroyka in the military sector. That is at least some realization, to say nothing of concession. It is likely that the biggest shortage of new thinking is NATO's, in the disarmament sector. Following the withdrawal of Soviet missiles from the GDR and the CSSR ahead of schedule, it was announced this morning that the Soviet Union has also destroyed the first six of its intermediate-range missiles—way ahead of schedule. Such active forward movement is really quite pleasant compared to the hesitant approach of the other parties involved in the disarmament process. One might argue that nobody is obliged to implement treaties ahead of schedule. But whether the active or the hesitant approach is involved, each demonstrates a certain mental attitude.

How about chemical weapons? The new proposal from the SED, CPCZ, and SPD comes at a time when action by central Europeans on their own is particularly necessary. The West is publicly discussing that this year there will probably be no international ban on chemical weapons in the Geneva negotiations because of U.S. and French obstructionist policies. At the same time FRG politicians almost daily are suggesting bans on such chemical weapons. That seems to be a credible concern, especially because the barrels containing the chemical war material are so much subject to corrosion that a catastrophe can no longer be ruled out in the FRG where there are chemical weapons depots. So why not take the bull by the horns—negotiate with each other according to the three parties' proposal so as to at least solve the problem here where the two blocs face each other? Maybe I am wrong, but many official reactions from Bonn sound as if there were a will, but not enough courage to find a way.

What reasons can there be? Maybe the Americans or somebody in France would not like the FRG to talk hot issues with us. There was a remark in a television commentary that it is in line with the Western security system that no member nation should pursue a policy of its own. That provides some explanation. It refers, moreover, primarily to the relationship between sovereignty and the leadership structure of NATO. However, the crucial point must probably be sought somewhere else.

The FRG Government itself has a strange aversion to discussing common security issues jointly with its neighbors and to solving them when possible. That same problem exists when it comes to nuclear weapons. Lately Foreign Minister Genscher again explained that a discussion over new or modernized short-range weapons is not desired. What would be more obvious than negotiating with us over a nuclear-weapons-free zone in central Europe? Of course, all such things would be new and such negotiations would certainly show that here and there we all live in the same European house and that we are—at least regarding peace and security—objective partners. To confess that partnership would affect the way we dealt with each other—is it from that many people shrink? [passage omitted]

East Berlin Synod on FRG, Emigration Problems

LD122135 Hamburg DPA in German 1644 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—In the opinion of the synod of the Evangelical Church of Berlin-Brandenburg, the Federal Republic has an "indirect coresponsibility" for the problem of the applications to emigrate on the part of GDR citizens. The synod declared in a decision taken on

Tuesday in East Berlin that it should therefore be checked whether bilateral consultations between both German states were necessary in this question. During the discussion on this draft Bishop Gottfried Forck put forward the view that the Federal Republic must also "show its colors" as to how things could proceed.

In the decision, which was passed with a large majority, the "easier conditions in the areas of constitutional law and the economy" were pointed to, which have the effect of an "attracting mechanism" for GDR citizens. Allied with the "organized" obtaining of a first job, "again and again GDR citizens" are "led into temptation." The GDR Church Federation and the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) should be won over "to consideration being given in the FRG to the indirect coresponsibility for the problems of expatriation."

The synod appealed at the same time to the GDR leadership "to clear any uncertainties and cases of injustice in questions of expatriation." Above all it must be clear that those wishing to emigrate, who withdraw their applications, "will not experience any discrimination." Even if in the medium term it is not possible for economic, social and political reasons "to fulfill all desires for expatriation, what should be achieved is that binding decisions are issued after a phase of checking and efforts at reintegration." "Uncertainties and frustration" should "be avoided, which" cause "unnecessary personal despair" for those wishing to emigrate and social disquiet. Applicants who have been worn down by uncertainty lasting years should receive binding decisions soon which "should enable expatriation as a rule" on account of the burdens to date and for humanitarian reasons.

The fundamental position, repeatedly represented by the Evangelical Church in the GDR, of encouraging people to stay in the GDR was reaffirmed. The parishes should "display their hope for more just and benevolent relations" and win over those who had resigned this hope. The whole of GDR society needs every person. "Each person who leaves creates a hole and also loses more than he himself believes at first."

The synod declared that the Church could not arrange any expatriation nor "put on special events for those determined to be expatriated." But all people must be offered spiritual welfare. Alluding to the obstruction of people attending religious services in the previous month, it was underlined that "public church events, in particular services" must be open to all people. In further decisions the synod called for more openness and information in the GDR. The hopes "for opening up and transparency in many areas of our life" were disappointed through the events at the end of the previous year and at the beginning of the present one. This was an allusion to the searching of the church environmental library in November and the numerous arrests in connection with the Luxembourg/Liebknecht demonstration of 17 January.

The church leadership should "continue to look for talks with the representatives of the state on all levels." There was a further plea for a "policy of dialogue and information in all areas, which takes the mature citizen into account."

On the relationship to peace, environmental and human rights groups, the synod called for their commitment to be understood "chance and challenge for the church." In this respect "understanding, even for behavior which is from time to time unruly" should be (?worked for) "patiently and persistently from the whole of society."

The synod registered obstructions of the reporting of the church press in recent times "with regret and incomprehension." The church leadership should complain to the government "in order to enable unhindered, objective reporting again."

Churches To Hold Regional Conferences

LD121832 Hamburg DPA in German
1415 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] East Berlin (DPA)—More than 65,000 visitors are expected at the concluding events of the four regional Evangelical Church conferences in the GDR in June. The chairman of the church conference commissions Bernhard Opitz, who gave this figure on Tuesday in East Berlin at a press conference, underlined the federal character of the church conference work in the GDR, which differed in this respect from the Evangelical Church conferences in the Federal Republic.

The church conferences, predominantly linked with the church congresses, are being held on the four weekends in June in Goerlitz, Erfurt, Rostock, and Halle. Topics range from questions of peace, preservation of the environment, the relationship between Jews and Christians in the face of the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the pogroms on "crystal night" [9-10 November 1938], Christian life in church and society, and the responsibility of science, to Christian faith in a secular world.

The parishes from all regional churches in the GDR are invited to the church conferences, as was the case in the Luther year of 1983.

MSZMP Control Committee Expels Four Members

AU130726 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 9 Apr 88 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Decision of the MSZMP Central Control Commission"]

[Text] The MSZMP Central Control Commission took party disciplinary measures in the case of Zoltan Biro, senior staff member of the Sechenyi National Library; Dr Mihaly Bihari, lecturer in Political Sciences and Law Department of the Lorand Eotvos University of Arts and Sciences; Zoltan Kiraly, editor-reporter of the regional studio of the Hungarian Television at Szeged; and Dr Laszlo Lengyel, senior scientific staff member of the Financial Research Ltd. enterprise.

The Central Control Commission found that the above-mentioned party members represent views on several fundamental issues which differ from the MSZMP policy and which they have been expressing and spreading at various forums outside the party for some time. They have interpreted the organizational regulation of the party arbitrarily, rejected the principles concerning the internal order of the party, violated party discipline, and damaged to the unity of the party.

Because of their activities and conduct, the Central Control Commission has expelled Zoltan Biro, Dr Mihaly Bihari, Zoltan Kiraly, and Dr Laszlo Lengyel from the party.

Expelled Member Sees Crisis Deepening

AU121827 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 12 Apr 88 P 2

[Peter Martos report: "If the Crisis Is Trusted...Hungarian Communist Party Expels Critical Members"]

[Text] Vienna/Budapest—"I am confident that the crisis will deepen in the next 6 months." What the Hungarian economist Laszlo Lengyel formulates in such an apparently cynical and malicious way, is in reality the expression of a last hope: the hope that "the party at last recognizes the crisis"; the hope that "the necessary reforms will be adopted"; and finally the hope for rehabilitation.

Lengyel, an employee of the financial research company that works in the Financial Ministry in Budapest but is independent, has just been expelled from the MSZMP together with three friends because they "propagated radical pessimistic views," participated in the meeting of a "hostile and oppositional group," and "arbitrarily interpreted the party statutes." In reality the "crime" of the four was to point out Hungary's present severe crisis in the official media, as well as in the meeting of the democratic forum that had been founded by intellectuals who were in complete conformity with the regime and that is now called "hostile."

The financial expert does not mince words in a telephone conversation with "DIE PRESSE." The expulsion has been "absolutely unmotivated, as we only claimed that cooperation between the progressive forces of the intelligentsia and the leadership is imperative in view of the deep crisis." Lengyel is above all irritated by the tone and the staging of the expulsion proceedings before the party's disciplinary commission; they were absolutely comparable to show trials of the fifties.

It is "incredible that we were reprimanded in April 1988 on account of our participation in an event in September 1987 in which a top politician (Imre Pozsgay, secretary general of the Patriotic People's Front) had made the opening speech conveying the greetings of the prime minister." In the meantime, as reported, numerous participants of the democratic forum have been subjected to pressure by state employers and harassment by the authorities.

Lengyel regards the expulsion of Zoltan Kiraly, the prominent television journalist and member of Parliament, from the Communist Party as "a special folly." The point is not only that "the reasons are contrived"; "the measure thwarts all the talk during the past months of the rights of the representatives of the people and the necessity to permit criticism." In Autumn 1987 Kiraly was one of the deputies who opposed the radical austerity policy and the introduction of the income and value added tax in the parliamentary debate.

Lengyel also considers the expulsion of four party members as symbol of a more complex problem of Hungary. "We are not in conformity with the development in the other socialist countries. While in the Soviet Union and in China reform policy is being made, we are stepping backward. In economic policy, measures that have been overdue for years are not being adopted." However, this is "a temporary phase"; the hopes that "the reprimands are not the end" are based on this expectation. For "I am confident that the crisis will further deepen in the next 6 months. Then the party will at last realize that we were right."

Jasso Denies 'Storm' Created

LD111930 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] There was a sentence in Karoly Grosz' toast at a lunchtime reception today: Stressing the importance of the national conference of the MSZMP to be held in May, he considered the consolidation of party unity and the mobilization of the people for the set objectives as decisive. These considerations played an important role in the session of the Budapest Party Committee that was held today. The participants heard a report on the 1987 economic results of the capital and experiences of the start of this year. Janos Fodor asked Mihaly Jasso, secretary of the Budapest Party Committee, about the other point of the agenda, in an interview after the session.

[Begin recording] [Fodor] I have in my hand the ESTI HIRLAP, which writes that the Budapest Party Committee has held a discussion, or rather, listened to a report—and I quote here—"about the political mood of the population." The committee met in an expanded session. I think that what was voiced at the session is of interest to all of us. What is the political mood really like?

[Jasso] Since the 13th congress—because we went back as far as that in respect of this—the political mood, very interestingly, has been developing with ups and downs and in terms of its tendency, it is deteriorating. When it senses a delay in action, or when life does not develop according to its concept, then the mood deteriorates. Well, if now one were to characterize, let us say, the qualitative difference in comparison to the situation that existed previously, on the basis of the debate that took place today I can say that the mood of the population has perhaps moved nearer to the real situation of the country, the population's de facto situation to the situation of the country. This is one of the points, while the other is that the mood of the population is, to a small extent, worse than the de facto situation of the population today.

[Fodor] What was the extent of the storm that the expulsion of some people from the party—which is a rather fresh event—created among the party members? [Jasso] It has not created a storm. We have informed the party committee about the reason of the expulsions; the party committee has unequivocally acknowledged this. It is possible that a debate will be held but within the party the debate has for a long time been the way in which party unity can be consolidated.

[Fodor] However, at the same time this is not the only thing you have to keep in mind. This is signified by the fact that with respect to this report you were interested in the mood of others as well as that of party members.

[Jasso] No. For us to take account of our tasks we must know, beyond the mood of the party members, the mood of the population as deeply as possible.

Our decision is not only made for the party members; the impact of our decisions are enjoyed—or shall we say suffered in the event of a wrong decision—not just by party members. Therefore we must have knowledge of the entire society, the whole of the population of the capital. [end recording]

New Group Urges Political, Economic Pluralism

LD121644 Hamburg DPA in German
1500 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Budapest/Berlin (DPA)—Representatives of various organizations of reformist communists and Catholic grassroots groups have recently founded an umbrella organization in Hungary to promote the development of a pluralistic system there. This emerges from a document in the hands of the Berlin "East-West News Service."

An inaugural appeal, which was signed by 46 Hungarian public figures, according to the news service, notes that a "majority parliamentary democracy" in Hungary with the separation of powers and the guarantee of civil rights and liberties through the constitution are long-term objectives to be achieved through joint efforts. The economic goal is a system with "a regulated market," which allows "competition between rival forms of ownership."

In foreign affairs, a "regulated good neighborly relationship with the Soviet Union" and "cooperation with the democratic forces of adjacent countries" should be developed. The paper also makes special mention of "moral responsibility for the Hungarian minorities which are outside state borders."

The umbrella organization which is to constitute itself in a "network of free initiatives," intends in the future to make regular statements on current political, economic, social, and cultural developments. Through spokesman appointed on a rotating basis. Anyone who agrees with the aims of the association is asked by the appeal to give his "signature in support."

Government Spokesman on Citizens' Complaints

AU120937 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 8 Apr 88 pp 1,5

[Correspondents' report: "Council of Ministers Holds Meeting—Further Consultations on the Price of Children Clothes—Government Spokesman Rezso Banyasz Holds News Conference"—in Budapest on 7 April]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] NEPSZAVA: The government has discussed the experiences of people's control activity in 1987. How would you sum up the debate and what concrete measures will be taken to put an end to the shortcomings discovered by the people's control?

[Banyasz] As for the report submitted by the People's Control Commission and discussed by the government, the report informed the government about the 30 nationwide investigations carried out the committee in 1987. The county and Budapest committees carried out 200 investigations, and the district control committees carried out 600 investigations. Together with the 1,300 investigations carried out on the basis of reports from citizens, the people's controllers were active in a total of 2,100 cases. [passage omitted]

The people's control activity terminated violations of the law in 959 cases, 388 cases of disciplinary procedures ended with calling the people to account, and fines were imposed in 340 cases. Recommendations of economic fines were made in 11 cases, and of criminal procedings in 64 cases. [passage omitted]

MAGYAR NEMZET: Did the government discuss the citizens' anonymous reports, and if it did, does it plan to institute changes in connection with the anonymous reports?

[Banyasz] The government does not plan—at least in the foreseeable future—to institute new regulations in connection with the anonymous reports. As expected, in the midst of increased national and individual problems, there has been an increase in the number of reports on questions of public interest, including, unfortunately, the number of anonymous reports. Last year, for example, 11,000 citizens' complaints arrived at the people's controllers and almost 44 percent of these reports were anonymous. Some of these reports brought up real problems and drew attention to activities that violate public interest. [passage omitted]

NEPSZABADSAG Interviews Karoly Grosz

AU121300 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 2 Apr 88 pp 3,4

[Interview with Karoly Grosz, chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, by Pal Eotvos, deputy chief editor of NEPSZABADSAG: "We Need an Active Consensus!"—date and place not given]

[Text] These months we are faced with difficulties; the political atmosphere has become increasingly lively, and our mood fluctuates a lot. Society is looking for solutions to scores of economic and political phenomena; and stabilization and development prospects and economic and political reform efforts occupy the people's minds.

Karoly Grosz answered Pal Eotvos' questions about these areas.

[Eotvos] You stressed several times—most recently in the course of your visit to the National Federation of Newspaper Reporters—that in evaluating present conditions, you think that the direction of movement and of change is even more important and decisive than the situation of the country.

The development program of the MSZMP Central Committee, and later the government's work program was based on a given situation, for example certain elements of political stability. Has this basic situation changed?

[Grosz] The real truth is that the direction of the change is the most important aspect, because, although the prevailing situation is important, our destination and the pace of our advancement are more important. It is still too soon for us to talk about substantial changes. The present situation which is interwoven with contradictions, and this is true both for the economy and the entire society, has taken a long time to develop. In fact, it has developed during the last one and a half decades and as a result of lasting processes; this is also one of the very important features of the present period. The fact that implementing the stabilization and development program also requires a longer period of time is related to this situation. It is, therefore, an important feature of the situation that patience, extremely great patience, is required now. Reform is fashionable at the moment. Quite a few people want to modernize everything—even when this is not justified—to avoid lagging behind and being branded as conservatives. And this can lead to haste. Nowhere in the world are such programs implemented in the matter of days, not even when people expect quick results, which is, of course, understandable. It would be an exceptionally great thing and a very great achievement if, within 3 years, we succeeded in halting the processes which brought about the situation which has been developing for a long time and which, according to present thinking, comes close to a crisis.

If, however, I do not look simply at the general situation, there already are certain changes, or I would say, hopeful signs, too. I am not happy about dealing with figures here, but it is the duty of the premier to give an account of the concrete situation in such cases. Thus, in comparison with 1985-86, industrial exports accounted in convertible currency strongly increased in 1987. As a result, deficits decreased in the non-ruble accounted turnover of goods, in the balance of payments, and in the budget. After the previous decrease, the real value of production increased perceptibly. Economic growth was greater than planned: Added value tax income increased by 3 percent and the national income by 2.5 percent. It is true that if we adjust this by the decrease in the terms of trade, our national income is only at the 1984 level. Certain qualitative indicators of production have improved, for example, the added value per employee. The exports of the people's economy increased according to the plan by 3.2 percent; but we must also say that the 2.6 percent increase in imports was more than planned.

The favorable processes, however, are not strong enough, and thus they do not satisfy the plan: Production structure has not changed to the extent desired, the consumption of materials has not improved, the added value per fixed asset continued to decrease, and we had an unbalanced ruble-accounted turnover of goods.

That is, the basic situation did not change. We are struggling with economic and social difficulties similar to those of 6 months ago but in a social and political atmosphere which is different in many respects. We have started to implement the program of stabilization; this, in itself, is also bringing about a qualitatively new situation. Now everybody still feels primarily that the beginning of this program is accompanied by deterioration in the living conditions and by an increased sense of uncertainty. We spoke about this before, but living through something is completely different from talking about it in general and adopting a program.

But let me mention something completely different: An important international change is discernible. In our history, it has rarely occurred that the outside world has

followed our efforts as sympathetically as we are increasingly perceiving and feeling at present. In addition to the fraternal countries, this is also true for countries living under other social systems. They are anxious for our endeavors to succeed, they worry about us, and on the basis of mutual interests, they have also helped us several times.

In any case, our efforts are meeting increasing international sympathy. I do not claim that intentions are always clear; but those progressive forces in the capitalist world that think, on the basis of long-term considerations, that the future lies in cooperation between the two systems, regard our solutions as suitable forms for this cooperation.

[Eotvos] However heavy the burdens on the economy and however difficult the lives of many, the lack of fortitude and self-confidence and the bad moods are presumably an even greater concern than our economic difficulties. In your opinion, what events have led to all this?

[Grosz] Yes, perhaps the most important aspect is that to implement our economic tasks, we should establish social conditions and a general mood that is more favorable than at present. Our situation requires an active consensus. At the same time, of course, I think that the political conditions and the mood are not identical. As regards the political situation, my experience is that the decisive majority of society wants socialism, accepts the leading role of the party, justifies our commitment which has developed with the socialist countries, and concurs with our openness and our international policy which supports the peaceful development of the world. In this sense I think that the political situation is basically positive. However, I think that the mood is not as good. It is worse if I compare it to the political situation, but not if I compare it to objective conditions or reality. At the same time I must say that the mood can improve as fast as it can deteriorate. Mood is by nature very changeable.

We Should Also Know How To Handle the Present [subhead]

And what is, in my opinion, the reason for the lack of self-confidence and for the bad mood?

I cannot trace this back to one cause or two. In my opinion, this issue has very complex components. One reason for my opinion is that we have been susceptible to extremes for a long time. I am not saying that this is a national feature; but it is characteristic for us to quickly make big victories out of small successes and deep tragedies out of partial failures. Think back to the National Assembly session half a year ago, when a relatively positive mood emerged quickly both at the National Assembly and in the country, without any change in the basic situation. A few months went by and we are impatiently demanding tangible results. These, however, are unavailable; moreover, as we begin to experience the grievances of the terribly difficult road toward results, the completely opposite extreme appears at once: low spirits and gloom.

In my opinion, and this can no doubt be debated, a specific condition which is related to the reform process also plays a role in our present mood: the fact that the reform in Hungary only received support at the level of agitation intended for public consumption. However, our conduct over the last 20 years has given real and substantial support to the reform! To say the same thing in a less refined way, everything in the reform that was advantageous for all society received our support easily; but we strongly rejected everything in the reform that involved sacrifice and constraint—and there is no reform without these! We run out of strength, and our self-confidence decreases much too often whenever we have to implement reforms that have been received with public acclaim, amid the grievances of everyday life. Regrettably, this contradictory situation further affects our mood. In fact, no qualitative change has occurred here in reform thinking; reform was only a motion on the surface. Even today, the reform in Hungary is very often expressed in slogans and not in conduct.

However, in addition to this, where else do I see this present mood reflected? I see it in the fact that the strength and efficiency of the leadership has decreased.

[Eotvos] But did the leadership not grow tired of precisely this, the efforts and struggles to have the reform accepted?

[Grosz] The truth is that a negative mutual influence is evident here, and I cannot deny this; but after all, a leadership is a leadership because it has a program and leads its implementation. Although it suffers from the mood and from resistance, it must still lead.

To go back to the leadership, we really did not lack long-term programs; our problem was that there was no realistic medium-term program which would organically adjust to the long-term goals, or a technique to handle crisis phenomena which necessarily accompany reform and change in the world economic environment, a technique that also belongs to the issues handled by the leadership. And the effects of these two appear together: On the one hand, we did not have a medium-term program which took the real possibilities into consideration and which would help us; on the other hand, we must know how to handle the present before the future. The present weakness of the leadership is reflected precisely in the fact that it gives very slow answers to the critical situations which are regularly created by reform motions and international economic changes.

When a problem appears, the country begins to sense it and debate it, but it takes the leadership a long time to find the answer it thinks is the best. An unacceptably long time passes between the emergence of a problem and providing the solution for it.

Finally, and this is not connected with the leadership, in my opinion there is an awakening in society which resembles quite an important process; the recognition that as a result of the tensions which have been accumulating for many years, not only the country but also the individual has become threatened, and that this new stage has far-reaching results for the individual. So far only the national, and this or that branch, enterprise, or producer cooperative was in difficulties, but the individual lived somehow, but mostly better. The conditions at present are completely different. The debts caused by surplus public consumption which have been accumulating for many years and which amount to many billions—as a result of unsuccessful investment projects, above anything else—have so far been only a quantitative issue. However, our present net debts which amount to $11 billion are already creating a new situation. This is a qualitatively different situation both economically and socially. It is no longer true that the individual can set himself apart. It is now clear that when the economy is becoming increasingly unable to perform, it also sweeps away the islands and creates a difficult situation for the individual. And in fact the economy is already threateningly close to such a situation with its $11 billion debt. Here the individual, too, is already beginning to recognize that he also can indeed lose what he has created over 30 years.

I, therefore, feel that a shock-like process of recognition is under way here, that the issue here is not whether we lack $500 million or where to take this amount from, nor whether there is a 30 billion forints deficit in the treasury, but that much more is at stake. The awareness of responsibility in society is changing and strengthening in this respect. Because it is one thing when we, several people, know the real issue, or when several thousand people in the party and the leadership know this, and quite another thing if several million people are aware of this.

We have to take into consideration that if we do not bring about a substantial change, the danger of insolvency will threaten us for years. And it will be more long years until we are able to develop a structure which will thoroughly reverse our position and basically change our opportunities.

And while I am analyzing the components of our mood, I will also mention an interesting thing the political implication of which we do not usually take into consideration; that is to say, the effects of opening very widely the country's borders. Well, whereas previously for many years we said and measured ourselves by saying "We are already here," people today are saying with increasing frequency "Are we only here?" This kind of comparison existed previously, but has now increased. As long as we compared the change rather to our inner development, we perhaps overestimated our results. But when people go abroad in masses and meet with the results of a different kind of development and with different standards, they can justifiedly be unhappy with the domestic performance because the world economic shock was general and affected everyone.... And we cannot require everyone to scientifically analyze, say, what role the foreign capital that appeared at times of scarcity of capital played in determining the current Austrian living standard; or, when reading about the economic results of the successful countries in the Far East, we cannot require everyone to evaluate, let us say, the very modest living conditions of the average Japanese family, the strength of their adherence to their working places, or their discipline at work. In the same manner, when considering the front-line achievements of the capitalist world, people cannot be expected to always consider, for example, the severe problems of crisis areas at the same time, even if this is also part of the picture.

In conclusion let me say that the weakness of our propaganda work also contributes to the difficult mood. And here I am not limiting myself to the mood-creating elements employed by the media. I perceive this in the much wider sense of the way the leadership presents the situation. Regrettably we cannot transmit our affairs and efforts in an adequately complex manner through propaganda means. In the course of political work we have not yet learned to seize the elements which make moods change and develop more realistically. This is not a failure on the part of the press, because it only adds its own to the basic situation, mostly in order to help. Nevertheless, I have a sense of lack because the press does not present people's efforts and results actively enough.

Development Is Not Only Constructing Something New [subhead]

[Eotvos] What do you mean by complex transmission?

[Grosz] I have previously presented my view of the state of reform thinking in Hungary. One of our deepest concern today is this simplified way of thinking. To be specific, how do we show, for example, the changes and development under way here, or how do we have them shown?

And this is not the first time that I say that on this subject I rely on Gyorgy Lukacs who said that development is not equal to the construction of something new; in addition to the construction of something new, development also comprises of destroying outdated things. Development in Hungary has always been interpreted and still is often interpreted as the act of building, but we always carry along that which has reached its end and is outdated and obsolete because we cannot get rid of it. Naturally, the burden of these things has recently become so heavy that it prevents us from making progress. Now then, how is this presented in propaganda? Everybody agrees that we should get rid of the burden, but when this becomes concrete, it is a different matter! In Hungary, for example, it should be a matter of course that annually about 1-2 percent of the agricultural enterprises become obsolete. And here I mentioned a

very small proportion but it would be natural to say 5-10 percent. At the same time, 5, 10, or 15 percent of the enterprises advance more dynamically. Now, this 5 or 10 percent really do advance more quickly, but this fact disappears in the propaganda which does not mention it. The propaganda speaks about the fact that 1 or 2 percent are becoming obsolete. However, the process naturally includes the coexistence of both. Mr Spath, minister president of Baden-Wurttemberg, recently visited Hungary. There are less people in this state than in Hungary. The income and the value they produce is many times higher than our production. Mr Spath said that they have 150,000 enterprises; 3,000-5,000 of which go bankrupt every year. (The total number of enterprises in Hungary does not reach this figure.) Annually 300,000 people switch jobs in Baden-Wurttemberg. Although in Hungary 700,000 people change jobs, in 1987 only 12,000 people did so, in accordance with the direction of the necessary regrouping. I only mention this example because it would be worth thinking this through: A country which is much richer and more developed that Hungary regards changing jobs as part of its economic life and an integral component of the processes. Under the prevailing conditions we are not able to convey this adequately in our political work. Thus, it is understandable that a reporter who hears about the intention to close down one or two agricultural enterprises visits them and tells from the human point of view, about all sides of the difficult fate of the enterprise. We, of course, cannot object to this! We can only object when this is published and the entirety of the process and its natural unity remain in the dark.

Only the People's Confidence Can Be the Guarantee [subhead]

[Eotvos] We are in a situation where confidence also has a decisive role among the impulses which revive the economy; it has a decisive role because we cannot make free use even of our extra performance because we must first use it to stabilize ourselves. The role of policy, therefore, has also increased value in the sense that only in its sphere is it possible to prepare the grounds necessary to begin our efforts.

To put this into everyday language, the starting point of the way out of every economic crisis is for people to have trust and to invest in a national venture which for the time being has losses. Hungary is such a venture now and will continue to be so for years to come. But this is an inevitable venture....

[Grosz] In this case I would restrict the role and potential of politics, and I do not agree that the grounds necessary to overcome our difficulties can be prepared exclusively in the political sphere. The formulation I agree with is that in a war crisis situation, policy plays a primary role in enabling us to establish the grounds for economic advancement. Because we can advance only according to economic laws! It is true that our policy's role is to make people accept the fact that if they invest in this venture at present, they will get their investment back in the future; therefore, this is a solid and necessary investment. But, then, every business venture in the world is begun in the same way, by investing first and not paying dividends and then seeing to production....

But to go back, one of the roles is to provide a policy program for the future, or if you like, write the music to be played. Of course, the citizens will immediately ask what the guarantees are that this is a good program.

The second role of the policy is to establish trust in the program. Of course, nowhere in the world have there been or are there absolute guarantees for such programs, but one possible guarantee can be provided precisely by the confidence of the people, and this is what policy must achieve.

This is where a danger immediately manifests itself. In order to make the program more attractive, policy tends to move away from reality and not take the effects of reality into consideration. There have been several such examples in the past and let us remember our disillusionment when we learned about reality. Now, however, we must not at all give in to the temptation to allow our present difficult situation to deter us from exploring the opportunities objectively and expertly, and acknowledging the limitations.

At present we cannot afford to rely on our hopes instead of relying on reality. The policy should defeat the lack of trust between the enterprises and the government, the population and the leaders of the country by presenting the situation and the prospects in a multifaceted and strictly reliable manner. Naturally, the basic guarantee for this is that the program is good. This, in turn, can be ensured if the policy not only initiates the composing of the score but also introduces it to the members of the orchestra. The people should participate in the preparation of the program to be able to constantly evaluate it, for example by also asking themselves if they can implement it. In this respect, the 13th MSZMP Congress is a warning; its weakness lay precisely in the fact that high notes were included in the score that the orchestra was then unable to produce. In such cases one must go lower. There is no other alternative.

And there is another important factor that can appear in policy, the prospect of another possibility, that there is an alternative, that not only the program submitted by the policy can be good, and that the goal can also be defined in a different way and a different road can be paved, a road which explores the reserves better and makes more efficient use of the opportunities. At such a time it is also possible that another leadership is required. Incidentally, the right of the dissenting opinion to exist also originates from this real problem. Personally I am convinced that these different approaches contain real elements and it is particularly important in this difficult situation to take every useful element inherent in well-intended suggestions into consideration.

[Eotvos] The formula and the social structure on which consensus has been based for the last 35 years have basically changed. Therefore, it is not merely a semantic difference whether what we need is to renew the consensus or to establish a new consensus. What could bring this about?

[Grosz] We are now unable to create the basis on which consensus was established 30 years ago, in a different historical situation. One cannot cross the same river twice. This previous consensus was very wide and it was based on the fact that the policy had thoroughly disassociated itself from the mistakes made during the 1945-56 period, and while it preserved the basic values of the socialist system that was taking shape, it wanted to implement a completely different policy and do other things. And it was possible to make these other things appealing for everyone. At the same time, the consensus was continuously strengthened by a balanced development of the economy, distribution of economic growth, increase in the living standard, continuous development of the widest strata of the citizens, and by the development of socialist democracy.

However, when our economic performance began to perceptibly deteriorate in the middle of the seventies, we continued to maintain this form of distribution; and to do so, we took out more and more loans instead of renewing the economy. This form of consensus exceeded its own financial bases by 5-10 years. But another trend was also present in the consensus of that time, the fact that much clearer human relations were suddenly established. Such relations are today considered completely natural, but then they had the magic effect of a novelty.

Today we should not deny everything that existed in the past; we should deny only the weaknesses. And this will give rise to completely different trends, because in the process of eliminating past weaknesses, certain people will become victims. The financial bases of the previous consensus do not exist any longer, either. The present bases are much narrower.

How can we widen these bases? We can achieve this by preserving yesterday's values and establishing collaboration to create a new consensus. We must preserve the essential element of the previous consensus which said that everyone who takes part in improving the country should be regarded as an ally. Consensus Presumes a Continuous Dialogue [subhead]

But we can only preserve past values by being able to decisively reject what is already obsolete. And when such rejection is wide, we get into confrontation with many people. This government, for example, is temporarily getting into confrontation with almost every stratum because it demands more from everyone and only gives less.

Under these conditions, in the situation in which we are living at present and which will continue for several years, the basis of the consensus will become narrower. Therefore, we must establish a temporary consensus precisely on the issues which are the most important from the point of view of development, not of mood! That is, we should establish a collaboration system that will be more effective both in its substance and in structure.

Where do I see stable bases for this consensus are taking shape? One, in the fact that change is needed, and there is a very wide unity of opinion in the country; workers, peasants, members of the intelligentsia, leaders, staff, party and nonparty members all agree that this is so.

Two, I see the stable bases for this consensus in the important general recognition I have already referred to, that the fate of the nation is now at stake. And even if only in this way, it will create unity in the wider sense of the word, unity which will be based on patriotism and commitment to the homeland. The approach taken by Archbishop Mr Laszlo Paskai is valuable for me. What he recently said here, at the National Assembly, was that the Catholic Church feels that the issue is the future of the country and and that the Catholic Church is guided by endeavors to relieve existing tensions. Obviously there will be no agreement on details beyond this basic recognition. Ideas on the issue of "how to advance?" will repeatedly be conceived at debates. Consensus assumes that a continuous dialogue is held with every social stratum and group.

[Eotvos] Reassessing the functions of the state is one of the main trends of socialist reform processes, because the belief in the omnipotency of the state has ultimately seriously damaged the functional effectiveness of the state. Cause and effect are often interchanged; and now the people who perceive that a situation is difficult to review and perceives a deterioration in discipline, are repeatedly urging central action; and in the event of disturbances in everyday life, the reflex reaction at work in state organs is to implement measures instead of guiding the processes. How does the government view this reassessment of the state's role?

[Grosz] A lot is being reassessed nowadays in this area because the idea that the state is able to solve all the people's problem has been dominant for much too long. However, let us not be naive and think that people seriously believed this, either. Your question also reflects the fact that state interference is alternatingly considered as either exaggerated or insufficient. The situation at present is the same: When there is no trouble, the individuals, and collectives also, protest against interference; but whenever individuals or collectives lag behind, say, in competition, they immediately call for the state.

[Eotvos] Nevertheless, the state wants too often to tell its citizens what they should do, but the people do not want to do it. When will the state be able to better influence what its citizens want to do?

[Grosz] In my opinion, theere is already evidence of a change. The state has begun to consciously reassess its own tasks. It will be enough for me to mention those very important changes in the role of the National Assembly and the government which took place in a short period. Therefore, I do not expect a qualitative change in relation to the present situation because in my opinion this has already begun and we are living in its midst. The essence of the change is that the state should mainly undertake to resolve conflicts and settle processes which are too big for smaller communities to handle. History has written off the paternal state which does everything for its citizens and in this way relieves them of responsibility for their own fate.

In my opinion, it would be justified at present to continue changes mainly in two directions. One direction is that state organs should give up their still practiced patronage which is evident in their taking care of things instead of enterprises and cooperatives. Many people—using the wrong comparison—regard this as the withdrawal of the state, whereas all this is necessary precisely to also enable the state to function effectively under the present conditions.

The second direction for change is closely related to this. Wherever the state, let us say, "withdraws," a system of institutions which is based on self-government should be established, a system which will enable citizens to function independently within stable legal and institutionalized organizational frameworks. In this process, the government should occupy itself primarily with the conceptual issues and the guidance of society, the economy, culture, and domestic and foreign policy in a more substantial manner. We will continuously adjust the government's internal organizational structure to this change. At the same time, the authority of the government as a body will increase, and the government will be responsible to the National Assembly as a political body, whereas it will be accountable for the implementation of the political goals to the party.

[Eotvos] The distribution of the state's functions—decentralization—means that the state is "relieved" of the tasks it is unable to perform and that it is allowed to do only what it can. But in comparison with the present desires and with the necessary decentralization, to what extent have towns and villages become a stage for political activity, self-organization, a stage where interests are implemented and social problems solved?

[Grosz] When we announced that the state has an answer for everything, the citizens were justified in asking it to solve everything. This is how we prevented people from becoming capable of solving their problems on the spot.

I think that very great values are inherent in the ability and readiness of communities to organize themselves. In my opinion, we are already beyond recognizing the great opportunities inherent in a community which has a well-organized and independent inner life, or the importance of various forms of self-organization. However, in comparison with the opportunities inherent in these forms, we cannot be satisfied with the stage of development in the inner life of our communities' collectives or with their capacity to organize themselves. Here we are no longer speaking about recognizing the possibilities inherent in the collective of a village or about our allowing them to organize a group, naturally for a legitimate purpose. In addition, this will no longer be a legal issue either, once the law on association is adopted in the very near future.

The issue today is rather the extent to which this self-organization will be able to hold together in a really democratic manner, people's real interests and endeavors according to the local specifics; another issue is the extent to which these sectors of society, with their abilities, will be able to consciously become integrated into the endeavors of the larger collective.

As regards the active democracy of self-organization—and this is connected with our lack of traditions—quite a lot of similarities and standardization indeed prevail. Now a new danger is emerging: Everyone wants to establish a Daniel Berzsenyi Society or a Istvan Sechenyi Group in every village. It is of course very important for a Sechenyi Group to function where it has inner substantial elements; but in a place where, for example, a society of farmers is needed, the two kinds of groups cannot be interchanged. That is, I believe in functional variety which is based on local features and which also strengthens and enriches national togetherness.

I regard the voluntary community contribution as a lasting lesson. We have ruined a good idea by making it into an institution instead of commissioning the local communities to organize it; they would have adjusted it to the concrete opportunities and tasks.

The Role of Prominent Figures Has Increased [subhead]

In connection with these issues, there is also opposition from the leadership. Such an issue, for example, is whether there should or should not be a newspaper, that is a local town newspaper. However, I think that if a newspaper is established, and many will be established, the majority will disappear after the third issue. They will simply be unable to survive and occasionally some other kind of newspaper will be established. I don't really understand why one should suffer from cramps because of this. Let there be a role [strajfa], several basic regulations to the effect that a partnership, a collective, or a newspaper cannot work against the system and cannot serve retrograde intellectual trends like antisemitism, racism, nationalism, and incitement against other nations. When these principles are laid down, local communities should be able to get organized according to their interests and needs.

However, there is one further issue concerning self-organization. A single person, the chairman of the producer cooperative, the local party secretary, the chairman of a citizens' committee, or someone else, and his ability to perceive the local needs, establish contacts, and organize the community can have an almost entirely decisive role. Therefore, the role of the leading figures has also increased in this sense.

[Eotvos] Together with the government, we are all worried about additional inflationary pressures these weeks. The day the Council of Ministers published its guidelines in this respect, you said something essential in Szekszard: "The leadership has so far been unable to force the economic units to change their own situation and the situation of the people's economy by improving efficiency and accepting the constraints of structural reorganization." What caused this? To what extent are we threatened by the danger that the government will be forced to give in to attempts to rearrange enterprise positions that have been changed by the tax system?

[Grosz] Your question touches a sensitive aspect of the issue because inflation is closely related to the efficiency of economic management and the structural weaknesses of the Hungarian economy. In an economy which is struggling with difficulties and which in addition has enormous financial obligations, losses are necessarily reflected in rapidly increasing prices, in inflation. At present this is a real situation which cannot be simply eliminated by government decisions. It is possible to curb price increases administratively, but international experience and economic laws demonstrate that these lead to further distortions because they slow down the existing momentum and initiative, and create shortages of goods, disguised price increases, and corruption. Nowhere has there been a precedence for curbing inflation without implementing structural renewal and strengthening external and internal balance. Moreover, without these measures, inflation becomes irresponsive to influences. This is what people should understand, because many still believe that 5 or 15 percent inflation depends on a government decision.

In the present difficult situation, the government is of course also responsible for keeping inflation within limits which society can endure; but it is also responsible to ensure that there are no bigger disturbances.

The new tax and price system reorganized the income positions of the enterprises mostly according to our intentions. I think it is natural for the economic organizations to try and reach their former position in an already more realistic economic environment. If they reach it by means of their work, the tax reform has accomplished one of its main goals, because the efficiency of economic management will improve and loss-making activities will be eliminated. But there is a real danger for the possibility that some of the economic organizations, by relying on certain interest groups, will try to return to their earlier position by past methods like obtaining subsidies and allowances through lobbying and by increasing prices without improving quality and in unjustified ways. The government is determined to resist such efforts and take a stand against unjustified price increases, lax credit granting practices, and continuing loss-making production.

[Eotvos] But perhaps this is not only a question of mere intentions. According to a well-known argument, should economic conditions become more severe, enterprises will be able to exert very strong political pressure on the government because the managers have been deeply integrated into the political structure. The government will retreat, and then, in its plight, launch another—indiscriminate—attack....

[Grosz] Even if there has been such a case, it was not preceded by these signs. What I saw were cases in which enterprises and enterprise representatives—local, public, or political leaders or ministry organs—managed to obtain allowances from the government, and not cases which were characterized by political action. These two are not identical: The government did not act under constraint, it had a relatively large scope, and it sometimes disposed of its means on the basis of certain secondary interests and not according to economic common sense. There were always real local or branch interests behind this, but it is not at all certain that such behavior was in the general interest of the country.

[Eotvos] The government is making spectacular efforts to alleviate the old lack of confidence prevailing in its relations with the enterprises. How successful has it been? You mentioned previously that an almost dramatic recognition of our common lot is currently under way in the country. To what extent is this true of the stratum of the economic leaders who determine so much?

[Grosz] I decisively feel that this recognition is present among them, at any rate in their awareness, because these leaders perceive the situation in the country much better than the layman, and there are examples that prove that this recognition is demonstrated in actions. For example, enterprises are showing self-restraint in increasing prices. It would be in their interest to increase prices, but an approach which takes into account the entirety of society induces them to exercise self-restraint. That is, it induces those that are able to, because only those who have the scope can do so, not everyone. One initiative is characteristic of the situation, the initiative to establish within the Hungarian Economic Chamber a stage where the government and the enterprises can negotiate the prices and where the interests of the parties can be maximally coordinated. I think this is very promising.

We Want a Modern and More Efficient Socialism [subhead]

[Eotvos] It was often said at one time that the external conditions of the reform processes are the cause of our greater difficulties in advancement. We used to say that we were going against the wind. Nowadays we say that we are advancing with the wind to our back. This

includes that sly little twist that the wind is faster than our progress....

[Grosz] I believe that right at this moment we are not progressing more slowly than previously either; on the contrary, we are progressing more quickly. Speaking only of 1988, we introduced a new tax system; and if it is adopted by the National Assembly, we will enact the new partnership law, which will be an enormous achievement, from a theoretical, political, and organizational point of view too. A reform committee has been established to work out the modernizing of guidance in the long term. In this respect I believe that we are not lagging behind at all, whether we compare ourselves to our past or to the other socialist countries that are implementing reform. I still feel that in one sense perhaps we are further behind what would be warranted compared with the economic situation.

Indeed, as regards international trends, I can say that thank God, they have increased in the right direction as a result, and as a by-product there has been little devaluation in the esteem and prestige of our bold seeking of a way. But nothing changed our quest substantially. Our position of a hitherto lonely fighter has become the position of a trooper within a squad, which is not a demotion; on the contrary, this increases our strength in my opinion.

At the same time, of course, every country lives its own life differently and so efforts for renewal cannot be compared. One similarity that I see is intentions and endeavors to renew. That is, we want a modern and more efficient socialism whose basic issue is a modern and efficient economy. All the other elements are different, I think. Yet after a longer period time and despite the differences, we will have to establish uniform elements which will not be opposed to diversity. Modernizing the CEMA mechanism is such an endeavor; in this area it will be chiefly necessary to clarify the role of money, and settle the issue of planning, and so on. A similarity has, therefore, been established in certain things, a similarity which develops very slowly because national diversity is still very strong and cannot as yet be synthesized.

A Stronger Appeal Should Be Established [subhead]

[Eotvos] The party conference due to be held soon will give determine our immediate future. What uplifting force do you expect it will give society?

[Grosz] Interest in the party conference is quite large, which is evident. This is natural and fortunate. At the same time, certain increased expectation is evident in quite a few places, and dangers are also inherent in this. I am saying this primarily because mass communication and political work with the masses should aim at ensuring that the expectations of the public opinion should be adjusted to the significance of this really important event and that there should be neither overexcitement nor lack of interest. Besides, the real significance of such a political event is determined only later because its contribution to advancement becomes clear only then.

I myself am convinced that the party conference will contribute to establishing the desired intellectual unity. It will naturally not establish long-term unity or unity in every respect, because this concept should also be given a new meaning as regards party unity: The collective program should be developed in the course of debates which will bring dissenting interests and opinions to the surface, which is the way to guarantee action. But the inevitable compromise will constantly be present in this unity because dissenting opinions will repeatedly surface; unity on several basic issues should always be established in spite of this and under such conditions. This is where I see the first goal of the party conference. Its second goal is to establish clearer conditions which will ensure that a person who accepts this program should vote for it. It will be better if the others—that is, those who are unable to accept it—would say so openly and clearly. The time has come for the party to establish a readiness for action in those people who are the most active and who will have to be the first to accept the consequences of the situation. There is no need to accept anything extraordinary; they will only—and I am using the word in quote marks—have to accept what normally accompanies the leading role of the party. This is all. And on this basis, the party conference will be able to carry out what I consider its third role, which is to involve as many people as possible in implementing its program.

The fact that the progress of this decision depends on a wider or narrower basis results from the nature of politics. The wider this basis is, the more difficult it will be to establish decision and concurrence but, at the same time, the more guarantees will there be that fewer mistakes will be made and that the basis for implementation will also be wider.

It is also inherent in politics that people who accept leading roles should also provide assurance by means of their influence and appeal which are based on their knowledge, experiences, consistency of principle, and education. This is true for the secretary of a basic organization as much as for the secretary of the Central Committee. Wherever these are not in accord, that is, there is a good program but the officials have no appeal and the persons do not represent a guarantee, the program cannot be implemented in itself. As a matter of fact, this is the way to establish the social home front which the party needs to implement its program. I am speaking about a social home front because the qualitative difference is whether a person accepts the party's program, and not whether he is a party member or not. That is, we should surround this stratum with an appeal as uniform and strong as possible. This appeal will be generated not only by the program itself or by its style, but also by the officials themselves who work in several tens of thousands of basic organizations.

If the party conference is able to do this, it will have done everything. At least until 1990....

National Bank Chairman Discusses Credit Banks

LD112033 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] [Announcer] At its meeting today the Council of Ministers approved the proposal of the National Bank of Poland [NBP] to set up nine credit banks. Marek Kassa asked Prof Wladyslaw Baka, chairman of the NBP, for an interview on this subject.

[Begin recording] [Kassa] Mr Chairman, so far the NBP had unlimited capabilities and unlimited income. Why did you decide to limit them and to set up nine credit banks, out of your resources, in nine Polish cities?

[Baka] Our interest is the same as the interest of the national economy, that is, for money to play a very important role in the economic process as we are absolutely convinced—and this is not just our own experience—that without strong money there is no healthy and good economy. We think that the direction adopted by us leads to this goal.

[Kassa] Will the creation of these banks make more credit available on the market?

[Baka] If there are greater and stronger monetary resources, and the economy works better and the enterprises will have, as I would put it, real money [autentyczne pieniadze], which they will deposit in banks, then these banks will give more credits. But if there is no strong zloty then there can be less credit than now.

[Kassa] Do you expect the interest rates and the service charges at these banks to be higher than the current ones, or similar?

[Baka] It will vary because these banks can compete among themselves as regards the interest rates, obviously within the limits defined by the NBP. A more effective, more efficient bank can offer better terms; this is normal. The general rule is that in order for these banks to function well we have to have a so-called realistic positive [realna pozytywna] interest rate, that is the interest rate slightly higher than the rate of information, and the interest paid on deposits lower than interest on credit. The correct functioning of this new banking structure will depend on this.

[Kassa] Last question, Mr Chairman, what will the NBP do since it is delegating the crediting function to the others?

[Baka] The NBP is the central bank of our state and is to conduct the monetary policy, define the line of the credit policy, and decide in which direction the credit policy should go. The NBP does not give up the credit policy; it will operate by granting credits to other banks, it will be a bank for banks, and the National Bank will have a lot of work connected with the policy of exchange rates, balance of payments—in a word, the policy of strengthening of the zloty both in Poland and in relation to other banks. [end recording]

[Announcer] The new banks will start operating from 1 January of the coming year. The Council of Ministers has also examined and approved a comprehensive program of the savings activities in the national economy for the current year and coming years, encompassing production and budgeting.

In connection with cases of scandalous shortcomings in supplying baked products and sea food pointed out by, among others, the mass media, the chairman of the Council of Ministers made it the duty of relevant ministers to urgently investigate the causes, to take disciplinary action, and to inform the public of the effects of their actions.

Miodowicz Interviewed on Economic Difficulties

AU130918 Warsaw SZTANDAR MLODYCH in Polish 8-10 Apr 88 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Alfred Miodowicz, PZPR Politburo member and chairman of the OPZZ, by Zbigniew Gajewski and Henryk Urbanowski: "Pragmatism Above All"—date, place not given]

[Text] [Reporters] Do you know that some people claim that trade unions are hindering a radical economic reform?

[Miodowicz] But do we know what a radical economic reform means? After all, no one has formulated a finished program for such a reform.

[Reporters] What about Prof Zdzislaw Sadowski's program?

[Miodowicz] It is impossible to rescue within 2 or 3 years, as was suggested in the referendum, an economy that is in such a bad state and technically and technologically so backward as ours. I think that it would be a miracle if we were able to carry out a scientific-technological revolution in Poland as we actually should. But I do not believe in miracles.

[Reporters] Do you then think that a radical reform is at all possible?

[Miodowicz] Within those 2 or 3 years I have mentioned we could have restructured, say, investments, but we could not have restructured the industry so quickly.

[Reporters] What do you then impute to Prof Sadowski's program now in implementation—demagogy or a lack of concept?

[Miodowicz] I think that his concept is original, but the program for implementing this concept is a program of measures and not of hoped-for results. But our people want to know what will or what may be the results of specific measures and when they will materialize. There must be a clear goal and the means of achieving it.

[Reporters] Nevertheless there are people who claim that it would be easier to close down especially unprofitable enterprises and to introduce some kind of unemployment to discipline the labor market, if trade unions would not oppose such measures. Any comment?

[Miodowicz] I do not know who these people are, but anyone who dreams about unemployment seems to forget about the basic principles of the socialist system. A single administrative decision could introduce unemployment, but such a situation could never be tolerated by the rule that calls itself, and is, the rule of the socialist state.

[Reporters] Closing down a few unprofitable foundries, mines, and shipyards does not have to mean that unemployment should appear immediately. After all, the redundant workers can be immediately absorbed by the sectors that are short of labor.

[Miodowicz] Retraining workers takes time and is a very wearisome task.

[Reporters] Does this mean that we have to take pity on any worker only because he wants to work in an unprofitable enterprise and because retraining and finding a job elsewhere would be a wearisome task for him?

[Miodowicz] You should know that it was the federation of the metallurgical trade unions that had the coking plant in the Concordia foundry in Zabrze closed down. The plant employed about 300 workers, of whom about 100 could be retired before their time, but the rest faced difficult problems. Can you imagine how difficult it was to retrain these workers?

[Reporters] Do you mean that nothing should be done?

[Miodowicz] What about the Zabrze example? It was trade unions that found new jobs for the redundant workers and made it possible for them to acquire new qualifications. No one else would do this for them. Another example: The steel plant in the Pokoj foundry was also closed at our suggestion.

[Reporters] But the thing is that you asked that each of these plans should be closed because of the special health hazards posed by them. This is not the same as closing down enterprises that are highly unprofitable.

[Miodowicz] I agree, but no one helped us to find jobs for or to retrain those redundant workers. That is why we are justifiedly suspicious of the issue raised by you. It is not enough to decide to close down a foundry or some enterprises. This would be the simplest solution. Besides, I have been hearing about closing down unprofitable enterprises for the past 3 years, but somehow no one has decided to do so as yet.

[Reporters] Why?

[Miodowicz] Because decisionmakers fear to take responsibility for the consequences. No one seems to be ready to take care of those who will become redundant. At times, nonsense really reigns in our country. For example, some people want some plants to be closed down as a warning. We could do this, but what then? Before we close down a plant or plants we should draw up a balance sheet of expected gains and of necessary losses. Money is not the only issue involved in this. The fate of redundant workers is also very important. We have now applied to have the wire plant in the Florian foundry closed down, but, as in previous cases, it is the minister who refuses to agree to close it down.

[Reporters] There is still one thing you have not convinced us of: We do not think that closing down plants that pose hazards to health should be placed on the same level as unprofitable plans.

[Miodowicz] We are certainly in favor of eliminating unprofitable enterprises from the economy, but this cannot be done at the drop of a hat. Besides, we are against taking such measures for propaganda purposes. Propaganda actions will not cure our economy, not even minimally, and our decisionmakers should realize this at long last. But what kind of action is it when people keep talking about closing down a plant—they do not quite know which one, as a warning? This is nonsense. Perhaps it is necessary to close down some dozens or even some hundreds of plants? Does anyone know which plants? Have the costs of such an operation been calculated?

As for unemployment, at the party-economic conference in Poznan in May 1985 we spoke of the so-called invisible unemployment and that we should dismiss about 2 million workers and retrain them to meet the new social needs. Nothing has been done since.

[Reporters] How would trade unions behave in a situation in which Margaret Thatcher found herself a few years ago when she decided to close down 39 unprofitable coal mines? At that time you supported the striking British miners.

[Miodowicz] Someone has already asked me such a provocative question, and my response was: First we have to have a Mrs Thatcher and then we will discuss the issue....

[Reporters] It is common knowledge that during the discussion about the second stage of the economic reform you have advanced the popular view that the

economy should be reformed without lowering living standards. Does not such a view and the conduct it involves amount to the suicide of the economic reform?

[Miodowicz] It was not trade unions that have invented the theory that it is possible to reform the economy within 2 or 3 years without lowering real wages. We would only harm ourselves if we asked the people to tighten their belts in a situation in which the implementation program of the economic reform is not fully transparent. Please remember that no one has changed the item of the national socioeconomic plan that states that real wages should go up by a mean 1 percent each year. Let us note that we can overcome the crisis only by increasing supply and the national income. We have been saying this for the past 4 years. Besides, trade unions are the last institution that should ask people to tighten their belts.

[Reporters] Foreign debts are another great problem of our economy. Would you be ready to ask people to tighten their belts so we are able to repay or reduce these debts at some foreseeable future?

[Miodowicz] Some socialist countries are doing this, but at what enormous price! Our situation is slightly different. I think that we will never be able to repay our debts if our creditors do not actively support us. But we are still without this support. Our creditors are behaving like those who do not want to join trade unions and who say: We will wait and see and will perhaps join trade unions when they are successful. But who is to be successful? Our creditors also say: If Poland has economic successes, we will help it. I think that we should not repay our debts for the time being and that we should put pressure on our creditors so they help us. At the moment we are unable to pay up even those 2 billion [currency not stated] they want from us. The thing is that whoever lends money is most interested in getting it back. The money lender is always after the borrower.

[Reporters] But creditors may take some punitive measures.

[Miodowicz] What can they do to us? We have no money and we should not pay. Some countries did behave like that. Besides, our debt repayments continue to be made in a very bad way. Every year we repay those 2 billion and keep on increasing our debts. We must be manly about the issue: Either they will help us or we will suspend repayments. Our creditors know that they have to help us in the situation in which we have found ourselves. After all, the interest on Mexico's debts has been reduced and new loans have been granted at an even lower interest. Draconian internal measures could be taken in order to repay our debts, but will people be able to bear such measures? Or perhaps we should hold a referendum asking better questions than was the case last November? Should we ask our people whether they want to repay our debts on usurious terms?

[Reporters] Do trade unions have their own concept of how to rapidly improve our bad economic situation?

[Miodowicz] At the moment we do not see any possibility of improving our economic situation. In the long term we do not attach excessive importance to cadre changes, but we attach importance to changes in cadre policy. How can you solve, say, the problem of housing construction if during the brief tenure of the present government the minister of construction has been replaced three times? This does not mean that we are dissatisfied with Minister Ferensztajn. I have mentioned this as an example of certain inconsistency and nervousness. We keep worrying about Italy because its governments continue to change, but we try to do the same thing in our country under entirely different conditions.

[Reporters] The thing is that in Italy government changes do not affect the economy to such a degree.

[Miodowicz] Precisely. The reverse is the case in our country. What I will say is my private view and not trade union view: I think that we could do well with a more resolute manner of governing, even with an enlightened technocratic regime [technokratyzm].

[Reporters] Technocrats do not tolerate self-management and trade unions.

[Miodowicz] What I mean is a manner of government with the participation of various forces of society, a manner in which pragmatism has priority. Pragmatism amounts to refusing to do whatever is not profitable from the economic viewpoint, regardless of the moods of society.

[Reporters] Aleksander Bochenski, with whom we had a talk not so long ago, thinks that there is no place in the managerial system for shared responsibility of workers self-management groups and other institutions, whose role boils down to consultations only.

[Miodowicz] Mr Bochenski's view is interesting. To me the role of trade unions in the managerial system amounts to defending workers subjective interests. Trade unions should be able to accommodate themselves within these limits. Everything else is a question of management. Nowhere in the world do trade unions aspire to government. Only in our country were those aforementioned limits overstepped in 1980-81, and the traces of such mentality still exist in many people.

[Reporters] What do you think General Jaruzelski had in mind when he announced special powers for the government at the ZSL congress? Could you expatiate?

[Miodowicz] I have thoroughly analyzed Gen Jaruzelski's statement. Please pay attention to its reservation that the government will propose those extraordinary powers if the unfavorable situation continues to deepen. The Sejm will make a decision. However, I think that

these special powers for Vice Premier Sadowski amount to a great opportunity and to a great risk, because they cut both ways, and it will be impossible to bring anyone to book in case of failure.

[Reporters] But how do you evaluate the crux of that proposal?

[Miodowicz] I still do not know what powers are involved. As I see it, the government will itself propose such powers for itself. As things are, Gen Jaruzelski indicated a political possibility for such powers without defining their range. However, I think that they should not apply to the Labor Code and should not restrict the legal powers of trade unions.

[Reporters] But people continue to criticize that code because it hinders the restructuring of employment.

[Miodowicz] This is a myth. First, no one has proposed such restructuring and, second, events show that this restructuring can be carried out in line with the present Labor Code. After all, some plants have dismissed workers in accordance with the law. For example, the Lodz Feniks plant has dismissed 700 workers, and the government has dismissed 3,000 employees because of the reorganization of the so-called center. The thing is whether managers are inclined to dismiss workers and reduce employment to rational limits.

[Reporters] What about suspending some trade union powers?

[Miodowicz] We will not agree to anything of the kind because there is no need for it.

[Reporters] What is it that you expect new measures to be against? Against wages or prices?

[Miodowicz] What I fear most is nervousness and certain panicky market measures. We need radical measures in another sphere. We need them to cut down waste and to prevent prolonged investments. We spend billions and billions of zlotys on these investments, but the waste is frightening. We have been talking about this for 3 years now, but so far we have abandoned only one such investment—the construction of a mine. This issue is related to our debt repayments.

[Reporters] What about the demands submitted at the "congress of people without apartments?" SZTANDAR MLODYCH viewed this initiative with enormous sympathy. Nothing doing?

[Miodowicz] Action has been taken. At this very moment the Government Presidium is discussing the construction program presented by Minister Ferensztajn. This session is being attended by our representatives for the first time, and we can hope that most of the demands in question will be adopted and implemented. In any case the minister of construction has included them in his program as he promised at that congress.

Reporters' postscriptum: Before we took leave of A. Miodowicz, OPZZ Vice Chairman Waclaw Martyniuk came back from the Government Presidium's session and said: The government had to choose between the adoption of the construction program or to do nothing to improve the building situation. It went for the first alternative.

Warsaw Reports Leaders Visit to Factories

LD130120 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 2100 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Today members of the PZPR Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat went to many work enterprises around the country to talk to the workers, party members, and nonparty people about their affairs and problems, working conditions, and factors contributing to the more efficient fulfillment of production tasks.

Zbigniew Messner went to Bielsko-Biala, where he visited the work force of the Ema-Indukta Electrical Engineering Works. The premier was most interested in the development of export production and the part young people play in the introduction of new products. Zbigniew Messner also visited the Metalplast Building Fittings Works, where he toured plastic products and aluminium window frames production departments. During a meeting with the executive of the voivodship party committee, the premier raised the most important economic problems connected with the introduction of the second stage of the economic reform.

Jozef Baryla and Manfred Gorywoda met employees of the metallurgical works and the refinery in Trzebinia. Wlodzimierz Mokrzyszczak visited the work force of the Pronit Plastics Works. The Karol Swierczewski Precision Engineering Factory in Warsaw was visited by Marian Wozniak. Janusz Kubasiewicz met representatives of the management and activists of the Polish Airlines LOT. Stanislaw Ciosek visited Skierniewice Voivodship. He met a group of young people working at the Rawent Dust-Catching and Ventilation Equipment Works. Gabriela Rembish visited the Ponar-Wiepofama Specialized Machine-tools Factory in Poznan and Poznan Construction Combine.

Zbigniew Michalek visited the work force of the Voivodship Meat Industry Enterprise in Kielce. Employees of the Poldrob poultry works and of the cold storage industry enterprise also came to the meeting with the secretary of the party Central Committee. Andrzej Wasilewski met representatives of Bialystok's cultural communities. Zofia Stepien visited the electrometallurgical works in Blachownia, near Czestochowa. Kazimierz Cypryniak today visited the nitrogen works in Tarnow.

Alfred Miodowicz had a meeting with the work force of Radom's Radoskor Leather Industry Works. The mining rubber works in Bytom, which is the main manufacturer of conveyor belts for hard coal and lignite mining industries, was visited by Zygmunt Muranski. Stanislaw Bejger met with employees of the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk. Mieczyslaw Rakowski was visiting Lublin, where he met the work force of the Agromet Argicultural Machines Factory. Marian Orzechowski visited the General Walter Lucznik Works in Radom.

Michalek Tours Kielce Plants

LD122238 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Zbigniew Michalek, alternate member of the Politburo, secretary of the PZPR Central Committee, visited Kielce today. He visited the voivodship meat industry enterprise. [passage omitted]

Subsequently a meeting took place with representatives of management and sociopolitical aktivs of three large Kielce foodstuffs and processing industry plants: the voivodship meat industry enterprise, mentioned above, the Kielce poultry plant, and the refrigerating industry works. Discussion revolved around the way enterprises operate within the realities of the second stage of reform, particular emphasis being laid on the problems of job certification and restructuring of wages.

In the afternoon Zbigniew Michalek also visited the Pinczow fruit and vegetable processing plant.

Messner Visits Bielsko-Biala Factory

LD121952 Warsaw PAP in English 1625 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Warsaw, April 12—Today, members of the PUWP leadership, the Political Bureau and the PUWP Central Committee Secretariat went out of Warsaw to meet working crews of many factories, enterprises and institutions in their workplaces. This time, they discuss chiefly problems of production, working conditions and organization of production processes.

Premier Zbigniew Messner, now in the Bielsko-Biala voivodship, visited the Indukta Electro-Engineering Plant in Bielsko-Biala.

Messner Discusses Relations at Kremlin Luncheon

AU121403 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 7 Apr 88 p 5

[Speech by Zbigniew Messner, PZPR Politburo member and chairman of the PPR Council of Ministers, at a luncheon given in his honor at the Kremlin Palace in Moscow on 6 April]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Ryzhkov!

Dear friends!

Today's talks are taking place, as always, in an atmosphere of sincerity and openness and of mutual understanding and respect. Their character reflects the present, qualitatively new stage in Polish-Soviet cooperation.

I state this with satisfaction on behalf of the Polish leadership, satisfaction that is all the more greater because we are meeting at a time that is symbolically linked with our cooperation in its traditional and present-day aspects.

A historic turning-point in our cooperation occurred 43 years ago in Moscow. We based our cooperation on the firmest possible foundations, because they arose out of the common struggle against Hitlerism, the struggle for "your freedom and ours."

In signing the treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance, our states were guided by the highest national, ideological, and internationalist interests. Poland and the Soviet Union decided that they would now develop their relations in accordance with the principles of alliance and partnership. The current stage in our productive and comprehensive cooperation affirms the significance and permanence of these principles in practice.

A year ago—it was also in April—the leaders of our parties and states, Wojciech Jaruzelski and Mikhail Gorbachev, signed a declaration on cooperation in the fields of ideology, science, and culture. The declaration set out new opportunities for Polish-Soviet contacts. We can derive satisfaction from the fact that the document is already producing the first, concrete results.

Our political cooperation has been intensified in an unprecedented way. Contacts between our governments are active and effective. Representatives of our sociopolitical organizations and our parliaments are productively cooperating with one another. The scope of mutually advantageous economic cooperation, which is creating a permanent material foundation for our contacts, is being constantly expanded.

This activity is in keeping with the collective concept for socialist economic integration that we are jointly working out on the basis of the resolution adopted at the 43d CEMA session

Despite the undoubted achievements in this area, there is still a great deal of work ahead of us. The consistent overcoming of the effects of stagnation wherever they hinder the common interest of developing our economic cooperation calls for the formulation of new, effective instruments and mechanisms. After all, what we desire is not formal but genuine progress, a definite enhancement

and acceleration of the process whereby cooperation ties are established, a shift from exchange to combing capacities and efforts to modernize and increase output for our societies' good.

A particularly favorable aspect of this is the similarity between the changes that are taking place in both states. The common factor of these changes is the emphasis on modernity, efficient methods of management, and the democratization of sociopolitical life.

These changes have a profound, sometimes radical character. Thus, their very nature means that their implementation must encounter difficulties and obstacles.

Nevertheless, basing an economy on rational and completely objective foundations is a necessity. We believe that only genuine criteria that reflect actual economic relations can provide a foundation for economic efficiency. We consider the creation of conditions in which this kind of thinking about the economy will become the basic criterion applied to every activity to be one of the main goals of the reform initiated by the decisions adopted at our party's ninth congress.

In Poland's case, one of the most serious obstacles to expansion are the remaining effects of the economic collapse that occurred at the beginning of the 1980's and the sanctions that Western states imposed against our state.

Although there has been a certain improvement, today the West is also trying to pursue a policy toward Poland in which one can detect the clear hallmarks of discrimination, which is often combined with attempts to interfere in our affairs.

The permanently equal and friendly character of cooperation with the socialist states, and with the Soviet Union above all, is a basic principle behind our economic policy. This feature of cooperation renders the assistance of our largest economic partner all the more valuable.

Polish-Soviet economic cooperation and its prospects are closely connected with the comprehensive concept of the international socialist division of labor within the CEMA framework, and thus serve to strengthen the socialist community. The Soviet word "restructuring" has played an enormous international role in today's world. Great hopes are connected with it, not only in the socialist states but among progressive forces all over the world. After all, the changes that are taking place are a "revolutionary leap into the future and, at the same time, a return to the enduring value of the Leninist concept of socialism," as Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev recently put it in Belgrade. The character of these changes is a guarantee for strengthening the socialist community and developing it for the good of man.

The PPR is also resolutely and consistently treading the path of socialist renewal. We are consistently enhancing the democratic character of sociopolitical life in line with the direction set out at the Ninth and 10th PZPR Congresses.

We are fully aware of the fact that there is one fundamental condition for achieving our common goals: peace and security on our planet. This unshakeable truth is recognized by the socialist states but also by all realistic political circles in the world, who have correctly grasped the essence of the new way of thinking.

The intensification of Soviet-American dialogue is of particular importance among the many efforts made by the socialist states with a view to improving the international situation. Progress in this area has provided grounds for all mankind to hope that there will be disarmament and that peace—man's greatest good and most valuable right—will be preserved.

Poland welcomed with great satisfaction the conclusion of the first agreement in history leading to real disarmament: the treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and tactical missiles.

We also hope that the Soviet-American "summit" meeting in Moscow will pave the way to a world that is permanently free from nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

The PPR, for its part, will do everything within its power to attain these lofty goals, which unite working people all over the world.

We resolutely support the Soviet concept of a universal system for international peace and security as well as the regional initiatives launched by individual states belonging to our alliance. The latest Polish proposal of this kind is the Jaruzelski Plan, which has met with support from friends and aroused the interest of other states. It is currently the subject of numerous consultations. Its implementation would make it possible to bring closer the vision of a common and secure "European home." It is obvious that the affairs of this continent are the subject of our particular interest.

The peace offensive launched by the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community was affirmed at the recent Sofia meeting of the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Committee. At the meeting, our defensive alliance once again expressed its readiness to continue with joint activities aimed at strengthening international peace and security and equal and mutually advantageous cooperation.

Esteemed comrades, we are united in the desire to see Polish-Soviet relations become a model example of international cooperation. We are expanding new types of contacts in the fields of culture and science, and we are developing direct scientific and production ties between

enterprises and organizations in both states—all this facilitates greater direct contacts between people. These developments are making an important contribution to the process of becoming acquainted with one another and to friendship between our peoples.

This goal will also be served by establishment of Moscow's first Polish cultural and information center, which will shortly open its doors.

Akhromeyev, Delegation Visit Wroclaw
LD122046 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish
1500 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] The Soviet Army delegation with Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, which is on an official friendly visit in our country, today visited Lower Silesia. In Wroclaw, Marshal Akhromeyev viewed the Tadeusz Kosciuszko Mechanized Troops Officers College, where he was briefed on the history and military traditions of the school. The delegation also had a meeting with the region's masters.

Sejm Speaker Receives Iranian Envoy, Message
LD122240 Tehran IRNA in English
1801 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 12, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Poland Abol Fazl Rahnama-Hazavei met with Polish parliamentary Speaker Roman Malinowski in Warsaw Monday and handed him a message from his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In the meeting, Malinowski, referring to a film he had watched on the Baghdad regime's chemical bombardment of Halabjah, northeastern Iraq, expressed regret over the use of chemical arms, which he said violates all international regulations.

Malinowski also said that his country was going to dispatch a parliamentary delegation to Iran.

Ceausescu Continues Visit to Australia

Places Wreath at War Memorial

AU121334 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1244 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Canberra, AGERPRES, 12/04/1988—On Tuesday, April 12 Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu and Madame Elena Ceausescu laid a wreath of flowers at the Australian War Memorial.

Next, the distinguished Romanian guests saw round the main halls of the memorial, and at the end of the visit they signed the visitors' book of the memorial.

Honored by Hawke Luncheon

AU121520 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1454 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Canberra AGERPRES 12/4/1988—On Tuesday, April 12 a lunch was given in honour of Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu and Madame Elena Ceausescu by the prime minister of Australia, Robert James Lee Hawke, and Madame Hazel Hawke.

During the lunch, held in an atmosphere of warm friendship, Prime Minister Robert James Hawke and President Nicolae Ceausecu proposed toasts.

During the lunch the president of the Liberal Party, leader of the opposition, John Howard, also proposed a toast on behalf of the liberal and national parties, which expressed his belief that the distinguished Romanian guests' visit to Australia would be successful. Declaring for the promotion of the dialogue between states with different social systems, J. Howard emphasized the growing possibilities of cooperation between Romania and Australia, of economic cooperation in general and especially in industry and agriculture. The speaker showed that the understandings covenanted were telling expressions of the fact that economic relations could be developed regardless of the difference existing between the forms of government of the countries.

Showing that the Romanian president's visit to Australia was the meeting at the highest level between the two countries, the speaker said that Romania's president was there as leader of a country proud of its independence, that his country's policy of national independence had been well known for a long time. Many times Romania proved its determination to promote its own foreign policy, J. Howard stressed and mentioned in this framework Romania's stand on several developments, referring to the appreciation and respect enjoyed by its attitude and actions related to the observance of the principles of national independence, equality, sovereignty.

Arrives in Brisbane

AU121548 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1519 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Brisbane (AGERPRES) 12/4/1988—Continuing his official visit to Australia at the invitation of Governor-General Ninian Martin Stephen, the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, and Madame Elena Ceausescu left for Brisbane, capital of the state of Queensland, on Tuesday afternoon.

The departure ceremony took place at Fairbairn Military Air Base in Canberra, the distinguished guests being accompanied from their residence to the airport by Australia's governor-general and his wife.

President Nicolae Ceausescu and Madame Elena Ceausescu warmly parted from Governor-General Ninian Martin Stephen and his wife, from the prime minister, Robert James Lee Hawke, and his wife. Satisfaction was expressed again at the Romanian-Australian summit meeting, at the talks conducted under the sign of mutual esteem and understanding, of friendship.

In Brisbane President Nicolae Ceausescu and Madame Elena Ceausescu were cordially welcomed by Walter Campbell, governor of the state of Queensland, and his wife, as well as by the prime minister, M.J. Ahern, and his wife.

Meets With Queensland Officials

AU121742 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1721 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Brisbane (AGERPRES) 12/4/1988—On Tuesday afternoon the president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, received the prime minister of the State of Queensland, M.J. Ahern.

In the name of the government of the State of Queensland the premier warmly welcomed the visit President Nicolae Ceausescu and Madame Elena Ceausescu were paying to Australia, appreciating that it went down as a major political event in the chronicle of the Romanian-Australian ties and, in this framework, of the links between Romania and the State of Queensland.

President Nicolae Ceausescu thanked for the feelings and wishes conveyed and expressed his belief that the present visit would mark, through its results, an important contribution to the multilateral development of the ties between Romania and Australia, to the strengthening of friendship and collaboration between the two countries and peoples.

During the interview, held in a cordial atmosphere, satisfaction was expressed at the fact that a good collaboration had been established between companies in the state of Queensland and enterprises in Romania in coal industry. Starting from the positive experience gained and the progress made so far in this collaboration, the

wish was expressed that new ways and means be materialized during the visit for the promotion of cooperation in mining and in other areas.

Honored at Brisbane Dinner

AU121843 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1725 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Brisbane (AGERPRES) 12/4/1988—On Tuesday, April 12 an official dinner was given in honour of Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu and Madame Elena Ceausescu by the Government of the State of Queensland.

During the dinner, which passed in a cordial atmosphere, President Nicolae Ceausescu and the prime minister of the State of Queensland, M.J. Ahern, proposed toasts.

Visits Canberra Research Center

AU121607 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1548 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Canberra (AGERPRES) 12/4/1988—Tuesday, 12 April, President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania and Mme Elena Ceausescu visited the Australian Scientific and Industrial Research Centre, the most representative institution of its kind in Australia and one of the largest in the world. The distinguished Romanian guests were cordially welcomed upon their arrival by Barry Jones, minister for science and small-scale industry.

During their visit the Romanian people's messengers were informed about the activity and achievements of the Australian experts in researches in applied sciences to support industry and other domains of public interest. Stress was laid on the good cooperation between the Romanian and Australian experts as well as on the wish to develop it.

Several laboratories were seen round.

At the end of their visit, President Nicolae Ceausescu and Mme Elena Ceausescu were appreciative of the achievements of the Australian scientists.

Further Reportage on RCP CC Plenum

Report on Speeches

AU121351 [Editorial Report] Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian on 29 and 30 March carries 23 reports, ranging between 700 and 1,500 words, on speeches made by top party leaders at the 28-29 March RCP Central Committee plenum in Bucharest. All the reports, totaling some 20,000 words, deal in general terms with various facets of socioeconomic life and party activity, with particular emphasis on Nicolae Ceausescu's great merits in fashioning Romania's overall domestic and foreign policy. Most of the speakers admit certain failures in their specific fields of activity, assume full responsibility for them, and pledge to work harder in the future. All the speakers fully endorse all the documents adopted.

Constantin Olteanu is the only full member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee whose speech is reported (in 1,500 words, on page 2 of the 30 March SCINTEIA). Speaking in his capacity as first secretary of the Bucharest RCP Municipal Committee, Olteanu refers to socioeconomic achievements and concerns in Bucharest. He mentioned that "last year the industrial commodity-production plan was exceeded by more than 3 billion lei and in the first quarter of this year by almost half a billion lei." He also says that "the production earmarked for export in the first 3 months of 1988 was fully achieved" and that "the spring planting campaign will be concluded on schedule." His speech, however, is not devoid of self-criticism, as he talks about "certain shortcomings in fulfilling basic plan indicators by various units," which have led to "nonobservance of contractual obligations and caused difficulties in commissioning several investment projects." In conclusion, Olteanu assures Ceausescu that the Bucharest working people "will do their best" to eliminate shortcomings and "fulfill all plan targets" and expresses full endorsement for the documents adopted by the plenum.

Mihai Marina, candidate member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee, speaks in his capacity as first secretary of Constanta County RCP Committee. In the 1,500-word report on his speech, accomplishments of that county are presented with appropriate thanks to Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu for their "most valuable support and guidance." He says that "the county's industrial production has registered a 4.6 percent annual growth rate" and that "agricultural results have been higher than in previous years," although "still not up to existing possibilities." Then he talks at length about certain failures "in fulfilling the item-specified production in 1987" and about measures required to remedy the situation. He concludes his speech by fully endorsing all documents adopted by the plenum.

Speeches by various Central Committee members with ministerial positions are also reported: Ion M. Nicolae, minister of the petroleum industry, who mainly discusses his sector's achievements and concerns in 1988 and says that "the export production this year has registered a 35 percent increase compared with achievements in the first quarter of 1987;" Gheorghe Paraschiv, minister of finance, who pledges to "adjust the activity of the financial-banking apparatus to existing economic realities" and "give priority to the production earmarked for export"; Petre Fluture, minister of electric power, who makes a self-critical analysis of the situation in his sector and emphasizes the need for "greater order and discipline"; and Serban Teodorescu, deputy minister of machine building, who mentions the existence of "serious lags in the fulfillment of the item-specified production" and pledges to take steps to remedy the situation and "eliminate all wasteful expenses."

SCINTEIA also reports on speeches by the following Central Committee members who are also first secretaries of county RCP committees: Ion Fratila, for Prahova County; Ioan Ungur, for Mures County; Carol Dina, for Galati County; Vasile Barbulet, for Maramures County; and Vasile Carp, for Olt County. The speeches deal briefly with local level achievements and concerns, contain self-critical remarks and pledges, and effusively praise Nicolae Ceausescu's "great merits."

Report on Complaints, Requests

AU130800 [Editorial Report] Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian on 3 April carries on page 2 the 3,500-word report entitled "On the Activity To Resolve Proposals, Notifications, Complaints, and Requests Submitted by the Working People to the Party Leadership, Local Party and State Bodies, Mass and Civic Organizations, and to the Press and Radio-Television in 1987, a Document Adopted at the RCP Central Committee Plenum of 28-29 March 1988 (Summary)."

The Central Committee report says that the working people's letters praised Ceausescu's "long-standing revolutionary activity" and expressed "their boundless gratitude for the self-denying spirit in which he has dedicated all his activities to raising the homeland to the highest pinnacles of progress and civilization." The letters are also said to extol Elena Ceausescu's "particular contribution" to "developing science, education, and culture in our country."

"In 1987, more than 1,561,700 citizens approached the party leadership, central bodies and organizations and their party bodies, county, municipal, and town mass and civic institutions and organizations, the press, and radio-television," the report says. It adds that "more than 223,000 working people submitted notifications and proposals on a number of aspects of general interest," and that most of them turned out to be justified.

"Numerous personal requests were made to solve some housing problems and disputes about labor relations and the rights of personnel. Other requests were made to settle misunderstandings, retry certain cases, and to grant medical and social assistance," according to the report, and "some 45 percent of these requests were solved favorably."

In 1987 "21,238 citizens" were received by the party and state bodies and "85,759 by county party committee first secretaries and secretaries," it notes, while 189,800 citizens were received by county, municipal, and town people's councils.

As for the press, radio, and television, they "showed more receptiveness toward the proposals and criticism voiced by citizens in 113,151 letters and meetings," thus "strengthening socialist legality."

The report concludes by saying that "in the spirit of the RCP national conference decisions, the Central Committee hopes that the party bodies and organizations, the collective leaderships of state bodies, and mass and civic organizations will work with great responsibility to promptly solve the problems raised by the citizens in various areas in accordance with the provisions of the law to give an impetus to the working people's participation—through letters and meetings as an expression of the development of revolutionary workers democracy—in the management of the socioeconomic activity and in resolutely implementing the decisions of the 13th RCP congress."

Further Reportage on Speeches to GNA Session

Dascalescu Delivers Ministers Report

AU091440 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 31 Mar 88 p 2

["Report of the Council of Ministers on the Fulfillment of the Uniform National Plan for the Socioeconomic Development of the SR of Romania for the First Quarter and on Measures To Fulfill the Plan for the Second Quarter and for the Whole of 1988; presented by Comrade Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the government, at the Grand National Assembly Session" held in Bucharest 30 March]

[Text] Much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the SR of Romania, esteemed deputies: On behalf of the government, permit me to present to the Grand National Assembly the report on the fulfillment of the plan for the first quarter and the necessary measures to completely implement the provisions for the second quarter and for the whole of 1988, a decisive period for successfully implementing the 1986-90 5-year plan targets, which will ensure Socialist Romania's move to a higher stage, the stage of a medium-developed country.

On this occasion, too, I want to stress the decisive contribution made by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, party secretary general and president of the Republic, to formulating and implementing the plans and programs for our country's socioeconomic development, and to mobilizing the creative energy of all our working people to resolutely implement the historic decisions of the 13th RCP Congress and of the RCP National Conference aimed at raising our homeland to new heights of progress and civilization.

The ingenious thinking, the revolutionary vision and boldness, and the untiring creative energy characterizing Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Republic, and the valuable recommendations and solutions provided by him firmly guide the concerns of our entire nation in the decisive direction of building the comprehensively developed socialist society in our country by

vigorously expanding the forces of production, substantially increasing the contribution of science and technological development to increasing economic efficiency, and by fully capitalizing on the material resources and manpower in all branches and sectors of activity.

The masterly reports presented by Comrade Secretary General Nicolae Ceausescu at the plenums of the National Council of Working People, the National Council of Agriculture, at the meetings of the PEC, and at the recent RCP Central Committee plenum have turned into tangible and very important programs of action for the commendable progress of the production process in all economic units and for the exemplary implementation of all plan provisions for the current year and the overall 5-year plan.

Moving from Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's basic guidelines and recommendations, the working people performed fruitful activity in the first quarter of the current year and thus achieved positive results in economic development in general, in accentuating the process of modernizing production structures, in expanding their own raw material base, and in improving the technical and qualitative level of competitiveness of products.

At the end of this quarter, more than 350 products pursued on a central level and important for our national economy showed substantial increases compared with the same period last year. Larger outputs were achieved in coal-generated electrical power, in coking coal, steel and rolled goods, oil and technological equipment, tractors, automobiles, automation means, machine-tools, caustic products, nonferrous metals, chemical fibers and yarns, synthetic rubber, cement, furniture, and in other products.

However, because of the persistence of certain failings in the activity of some central departments and enterprises, there are shortfalls in the fulfillment of the itemized production, exports, and the commissioning of projects compared with plan tasks. We will take more determined action to make up for lags and to prevent the recurrence of such situations.

In keeping with requirements of the current stage of economic development and with the guidelines and recommendations made by you, much beloved and esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, at the Central Committee plenum, we assure you that as of now the government and its executive bureau will take firm steps to appropriately prepare the production process and the material-technical base and to effectively solve problems that arise in the plan fulfillment process in order to commendably implement the provisions for the second quarter and for the whole of 1988.

Thus we will ensure that the central departments and mining combines in the extractive industry will speed up the commissioning and preparation of new coal and iron ore production capacities, including lagging capacities, and we will ensure that effective action is being taken to substantially increase the use index in pits and underground coal mining, and to strengthen order and discipline in all units.

The Ministry of Petroleum, the mining-drilling trust, and oil fields will apply these measures more determinedly to achieve the planned daily crude oil quotas as soon as possible. For this purpose, energetic measures will be taken to intensify special technical operations that ensure increased crude oil and gas outputs, a more intensive use of all derricks, and better organization of production and labor at all oil derricks to avoid any kind of nonproductive stages or production losses.

As you, Comrade General Secretary, mentioned yesterday at the Central Committee plenum, in the second quarter and in the future we will focus on ensuring electricity for all our economy in keeping with the program in this respect.

For this purpose, we will take firm steps immediately so that the relevant ministries and the equipment-supplying industrial centrals will make sure, under the direct coordination of the council of that branch, to put the planned energy projects into operation and to achieve the planned average power quotas.

Special measures will be taken to ensure the strict observance of timetables for general overhauls and the modernization of power generating sets which, at the latest by the end of October, shall ensure the completion of work in power sets totaling 2,300 MW, of which 1,320 MW is in Turceni and Rovinari.

At the same time, the collective leadership bodies in ministries, central departments, enterprises, and people's councils shall work with great exactingness to fully apply the programs approved by the party leadership for saving fuels, motor fuel, and electricity by taking firm measures to make sure that all consumers respect the allocated quotas.

In the metallurgical industry, where the production of steel, pig iron, ferro-alloys, iron sheets, plates, and sections exceeded the plan for the first quarter, the coordinating council of this branch, the ministry, and metallurgical centrals and combines must increase their concern with efficiently managing the planned material and energy resources in order to increase the steel extraction coefficient in the rolled goods production to at least 86.6 percent.

Special attention must be paid to best organizing the productive activity so as to ensure the planned daily deliveries, eliminate deficiencies in the quality of steel, speed up the putting into operation of new capacities, achieve the planned parameters in all commissioned installations, and ensure brands with advanced processing qualities needed for priority programs of the economy.

We will take more determined action in units central to the processing industry to make maximum use of the whole productive potential.

Within this framework, industrial centrals and especially those manufacturing electrical, chemical, and metallurgical equipment of the Ministry of the Heavy Equipment Industry have to work with great determination to fulfill their task of manufacturing the whole volume of equipment and installations needed for projects to be put into operation this year and especially the export provisions on schedule.

In the industrial centrals of the Ministry of Machine-Building, we will focus on the complete fulfillment of the planned itemized production of quality tractors, automobiles, trucks, ships, and rolling stock and on ensuring that they are exported operatively.

The central departments and enterprises of the Ministry of Electrical Engineering Industry have to take firm action to speed up the application of the program for the development and modernization of the production of industrial electronic equipment, automation means, computation, and electronic components to substantially reduce consumption and strictly observe planned norms.

In the chemical and petrochemical industry, the ministry and industrial centrals must take energetic action to speed up the putting into operation of installations on the Midia, Teleajen, Dej, Borzesti, and Drobeta-Turnu Severin platforms, which are able to determine the smooth fulfillment of production plans in the coming period.

Special tasks in ensuring proper supplies for the economy devolve on chemical and petrochemical centrals and combines to strengthen order and discipline, cut back on technological losses, increase the operation safety of installations, observe consumption norms, and strictly respect the purpose of products.

Special attention must be paid to better capitalizing on production capacities, especially in sub-branches of fine synthesis and low-tonnage, of pulp, and paper products, and to putting new products into production that will contribute to cuts in imports and to creating further availabilities for export.

In the industry of construction materials, of wood processing, and in the industry of consumer goods action will be taken to diversify and improve the manufacturing structure and to achieve better quality products that will ensure a better use of raw materials, including recoverable and reusable materials.

As far as the whole of the processing industry is concerned, this year's plan includes tangible measures according to ministries, centrals departments, and enterprises to ensure a radical turning point in using and husbanding steel alloys, ferrous alloys, copper, aluminum, and other nonferrous metals.

What is essential now is to firmly apply the endorsed programs in order to speedily adjust technologies and constructive solutions in order to strictly observe the planned consumption norms.

In the shortest time possible we must finalize the actions initiated to drastically cut consumption of nonferrous metals and of steel alloys since there are real possibilities and there is great room in this respect in order to avoid waste and to rationally husband these very expensive materials.

Esteemed comrades, in conformity with Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu's guidelines and recommendations very important and responsible tasks rest on us to implement the goals of the new agrarian revolution and to achieve the yields stipulated in this year's plan with regard to vegetable and animal production.

For this purpose, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Union of Agricultural Production Cooperatives, the people's councils, the state and cooperative joint agro-industrial councils, and all agricultural units must take responsible action to ensure the proper progress of the spring agricultural campaign and to perform the tending and harvesting of crops at the best of times.

To fulfill the very important tasks in animal breeding, it is necessary for the state and cooperative agricultural bodies to pay particular attention to creating the necessary conditions for raising all planned breeds of animals, increasing the birth rate and weight, and for strictly observing the average weight of animals delivered to the state stocks. Central and local bodies will work with great determination to properly apply the measures aimed at completely and intensively using the productive potential of lands, increasing agricultural areas, especially arable lands, using tractors and agricultural machinery at full capacity, and aimed at strict observance of work technologies.

Esteemed comrades, in the first quarter some lags were noted in the fulfillment of the production for export and in exports themselves.

A priority task of the ministries, central departments, and enterprises is to resolutely apply the recommendations made by the party leadership on the complete fulfillment, at a high level, of export provisions.

In this sense, the government will take firm steps so that each central department and enterprise can act with great responsibility to program, prepare, and put into

production primarily products for export and to effectively solve problems on the material-technical base and smooth deliveries of all commodities in terms of structure, quality, and deadlines stipulated in export contracts.

We will pay the greatest of attention to mobilizing all responsible people in the economy, central departments, and enterprises manufacturing products for export to urgently set customs duties for existing commodity stocks in keeping with the programs endorsed by the party leadership.

We must pay great attention to strengthening quality control in all units so that commodities designed for export can compete with similar such products in world markets and that they are fully up to performances and provisions stipulated in contracts concluded with foreign customers.

We will ensure that the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Economic Cooperation, ministries, industrial centrals, and foreign trade enterprises will constantly diversify trade forms, ensure contracts in keeping with our export plan provisions, increase the proportion of highly-processible products, effectively adapt to foreign market requirements, and constantly increase the efficiency of foreign trade.

In the area of investments, considering that the provisions of the production plan take account of the contribution made by the new production capacities, the government will take all the necessary steps to put all projects into operation and to achieve planned parameters in the new production capacities in order to implement the recently endorsed special programs.

The council coordinating investments, the Ministry of Industrial Constructions, and the other ministries will closely and responsibly pursue the application of firm measures both in design and in the execution of projects to substantially cut the consumption of cement, pipes, and cables and to ensure the proper management and use with maximum efficiency of all materials, and strict order and discipline on construction sites.

Esteemed comrades, the positive results achieved in the first quarter by enterprises and central departments, which have taken firm action to apply the measures stipulated in programs for perfecting the organizational framework and modernizing the production processes, for more vigorously increasing labor productivity, and for improving the technical and qualitative level of products demonstrate that we have all necessary conditions to fulfill the tasks of increasing economic efficiency.

Considering that important reserves have not been used, a fact that has had a negative influence on the fulfillment of such plan tasks as expenditures, labor productivity, and profits, we will take firm steps so that ministries, central departments, and enterprises will act with great determination to appropriately organize and lead the production process, to fully capitalize on the production potential in each unit, to strictly apply and observe stipulated economic-financial norms, production costs and profit levels, and to strengthen order and technological and plan discipline in all areas.

We will pay special attention to completely fulfilling the tasks stipulated in the special programs drawn up by ministries and central departments to fulfill the labor productivity, observe consumption norms, and cut production costs.

To totally fulfill plan provisions for the second quarter and for the whole of 1988, ministries, central departments, and enterprises must intensify their work to ensure the firm application of the programs for research and technological development, to shorten the time of introducing and using research results in the production process, and to introduce new products and highly productive installations and equipment that can compete in exports.

We will work with great determination to achieve the new scientific-technical revolution in all areas and so that technical progress—as Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu has stressed—will be a basic component and a decisive factor in fulfilling our plans and in implementing our country's socioeconomic development programs.

Esteemed comrades, to fulfill the particularly important tasks stipulated for the second quarter of 1988 requires us to always focus on ensuring the commendable operation of the economic-financial mechanism. It also require us to firmly apply throughout the economy the measures aimed at intensifying the action of financial-banking and price levers and at giving an impetus to export production in keeping with new regulations.

We will pay special attention to completely implementing the provisions of the programs established on the basis of the PEC decision, so that by the end of the first half year there will be no economic unit with losses. We have to ensure the firm application of the principles of self-management and self-financing and on this basis create the necessary conditions for profitable activities in all areas.

At the same time we will take firm steps so that all central departments and economic enterprises introduce all excess stocks of raw and other materials, and of finished products into the production flow as soon as possible, and that unfinished products are urgently finished while observing stock and expenditure norms.

In keeping with tasks set forth, we will urgently set new norms that will move from the need to cut stock and consumption norms in all branches in order to ensure an increase in the goods circulation speed and, on this basis, raise economic efficiency.

We will take firm steps so that the coordinating central bodies, the financial-banking, and local bodies will appropriately play their role and fulfill their tasks within the economic mechanism. At the same time, we will take measures to continue to perfect relations between ministries, central departments, enterprises, and counties, so that all financial-economic activities will take place at a higher level.

In our daily activity, we will ensure that all central departments, as plan executors, fulfill all their tasks, and we will take energetic measures so that they become directly involved in solving problems on the plan fulfillment in the units under their jurisdiction and the commendable implementation of the provisions of revenue and expenditure budgets.

In drawing all necessary conclusions from failings up to now, we will work so that all people's councils will fulfill their tasks of leading all regional-administrative activities under the best of conditions.

We will more firmly see to it that the central coordinating bodies and ministries improve their work style and methods substantially when corroborating, formulating, and fulfilling plans for quarters, months, and 10-day periods. At the same time, we will work to ensure the necessary conditions for the normal progress of the production process and for effectively solving problems that determine the fulfillment of all tasks by paying great attention to the fulfillment of the export plan.

The government will focus on strengthening responsibility in the application of party and state decisions, and the country's laws. It will instill a dynamic and exacting spirit at all levels and will take firm steps to establish order and discipline in the production process, and an atmosphere of great exactingness and responsibility toward the fulfillment of the plan to ensure high quality and efficiency throughout the economy in keeping with the requirements of completely fulfilling the plan for the second quarter and for the whole of 1988.

In conclusion, on behalf of the government, I want to assure the Grand National Assembly and you, much beloved and esteemed Comrade President of Romania, that we will work with great determination and in a revolutionary spirit to resolutely implement the great targets put forward by the 13th RCP Congress and the RCP National Conference, to commendably fulfill the plan, so that 1988 will see the best of results in the current 5-year plan, this being an important stage of development for the constant prosperity of our homeland, the SR of Romania.

Radu Presents Workers Report

AU111423 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 31 Mar 88 p 4

["Report on the Application of Provisions of the Law on Wealth Control," presented by Comrade Ion Radu, chairman of the Central Council for Workers Control of Socioeconomic Activity" at the Grand National Assembly Session in Bucharest 30 March]

[Text] Much esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, much esteemed Comrade Elena Ceausescu, esteemed comrades:

The great achievements that have been registered by our country in socialist construction and particularly those registered in the period inaugurated by the Ninth RCP Congress—when, through the unanimous will of the Communists and of the whole nation, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, the party secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, was elected to the helm of the destinies of our country—are the result of the efforts to ensure great revolutionary changes in our entire society and a new quality in the work and the material and cultural life of our nation.

Fulfilling social duties with a spirit of great civic responsibility by the great majority of the citizens of our homeland has become an essential characteristic of this glorious period, in which the concepts of the president of our country, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, regarding the need to unflinchingly observe the laws of the country and to resolutely apply the principles of socialist ethics and equity, are completely reflected.

By working in the spirit of these requirements, recommendations, and guidelines and through the educational activity carried out by the state bodies together with the workers revolutionary bodies to prevent any violation of the legal norms and to create strong public opinion against all tendencies of acquiring fortunes and leading a life without work, the number of cases of acquiring wealth through dishonest ways has been considerably reduced.

A major contribution to building our socialist society—a society of social justice—has been made in particular by the legal improvement measures, which are the result of the initiative and far-sighted, revolutionary thinking of the president of our country, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu. One of these measures is the law on wealth control, adopted in 1968, a political and, at the same time, a moral act that has become a very efficient instrument to prevent and fight the old mentality of acquiring wealth through the work of others, a mentality that is alien to the principles of ethics and equity that characterizes our socialist system.

By ensuring the direct participation of a great number of working people—who work directly in the production line—in the lawfully established investigation commissions, we have increased our strictness and severity with those who violate the legal norms and accumulate assets and wealth through illegal means. These commissions work as true bodies of the workers revolutionary democracy.

Fulfilling the tasks devolving on them from the law on wealth control, these investigation commissions and the state bodies have been working more efficiently, year by

year, to discover, investigate, and bring to trial those who have become rich through illegal means and to bring back into public ownership the assets and wealth acquired by them.

At the same time, under the leadership and control of the central commission and the municipality commissions, we carried out various actions to popularize the law on wealth control and we saw to it that the collectives of the working people discussed the case of those who violated the norms of socialist ethics and equity, in order to prevent any other such manifestations.

As a result of the great political-educational process carried out in accordance with the ideological program of the party, the socialist juridical awareness of citizens has increased. This is because they are more and more aware of the fact that work, freed from any kind of exploitation and carried out for the benefit of the whole society, is the only source of general prosperity and well-being of each worker.

In this context, cases of people acquiring goods through illicit means are isolated manifestations that are alien to the norms that govern social relations in our country. The investigation commissions, the state bodies, and the other organs entrusted with applying the law on wealth control have acted firmly against those anachronistic manifestations and have taken measures to call the offenders to account, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

In 1987, the investigation commissions were entrusted by citizens, socialist units, and state bodies to examine 1,552 complaints. During the same period, the courts clearly confirmed a number of 308 complaints and ordered 47 million lei worth of goods to be transferred to state property. The goods of greatest value transferred to state property were found in Bucharest Municipality and in Constanta, Timis, Bihor, Cluj, Harghita, Dolj, and Galati Counties.

Some shortfalls have been noted in the activity of applying the law and there have not been sufficient actions to discover the most significant cases of getting rich through violation of the norms of socialist ethics and equity.

Leading cadres in socialist units have not showed a sufficient combat attitude in informing the investigation commissions about the situation of the subordinated personnel, who acquired goods with a value that greatly exceeds their legal income. This explains the extremely small number of complaints made by the leadership of several socialist units in 10 counties, as well as the fact that, in 31 counties, the investigation commissions have been informed only by citizens and state bodies. Likewise, the people's councils, which had the opportunity to notice or become aware of some cases of people acquiring important properties, did not take actions in the spirit of the requirements included in the law of wealth control.

Focusing on preventive activity, the central commission, the county commissions, and all the bodies that have the task of applying the provisions of the law will increase their preventive and political-educational activity in order to eliminate everything that is at variance with the principles of socialist ethics and equity and to create a public opinion against tendencies of accumulating goods through other means than honest work. We will pay particular attention to see to it that cadres with leading functions in various units fulfill their law-bound duties and inform the investigation commissions about all cases of becoming rich through illicit means.

We will make greater use of the mass media, particularly of the central and local press, to popularize the laws and to prevent circumstances that would make it possible to acquire goods that obviously do not correspond to the income of the respective people.

In order to ensure better application of the provisions of the law, we will improve cooperation between the state bodies with tasks in the area of wealth control and the bodies of the workers revolutionary democracy, thus, together with improving the quality of the preventive-educational activity, we will increase strictness and severity in fighting all manifestations of harming the public wealth, of acquiring fortunes, of parasitism, and of acquiring goods through dishonest means, and we will strengthen socialist lawfulness.

We pledge to you, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu that we will work with greatest self-denial and responsibility, in a revolutionary spirit and with communist exactingness to implement your valuable recommendations and guidelines. We will unflinchingly observe the principles of socialist ethics and equity, and we will improve the political-educational activity in order to shape the new-type of man, with a high revolutionary awareness, as a factor of major significance in the new stage of development of our socialist society.

Ibanescu Gives Price Report

AU091854 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 31 Mar 88 p 2

["Report on Draft Law on Perfecting the Financial-Economic Mechanism by Improving the Price Setting System, presented by Comrade Neculai Ibanescu, deputy prime minister of the Government at the Grand National Assembly session," in Bucharest 30 March]

[Text] Much beloved and esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, much esteemed Comrade Elena Ceausescu, esteemed deputies:

Empowered by the government, please permit me to present to the Grand National Assembly the Draft Law on Perfecting the Financial-Economic Mechanism by Improving the Price Setting System.

The draft law submitted for discussion and endorsed by you is in keeping with the goals put forward by the 13th RCP Congress, with the guidelines and tasks set by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu at the RCP National Conference, and in keeping with the decision adopted by the RCP Central Committee plenum of 28-29 March 1988.

The measures proposed regarding the improvement of the price-setting system as a whole reflect the scientific, profoundly renewing, and revolutionary thinking of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, party secretary general and president of the Republic, who has constantly guided all the stages of formulating this draft law. With his ability to profoundly and critically examine the complex phenomena of our country's socioeconomic development, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu has made recommendations on how to improve the prices setting system, so that it will most exactly reflect the actual efforts made by economic units and the working people's collectives to fulfill their production plan, including the production earmarked for export, to rationally use all material, labor, and financial resources, and to consistently apply the new financial-economic mechanism, workers self-management, self-administration, and self-financing in all units.

The further improvement of the price-setting system is closely linked to the application of the programs for scientific research, technological development, and the introduction of technical progress formulated under the direct guidance of Comrade Academician Dr Engineer Elena Ceausescu, first deputy prime minister of the government and chairman of the National Council of Science and Education, programs which aim at cutting production costs, modernizing manufacturing technologies, capitalizing on all our resources, and at increasing labor productivity, profitability, and efficiency in all areas.

Basing all activities on economic principles and ensuring the profitability of all units and products in the economy requires us to achieve profits only under our own steam by cutting production costs and by substantially increasing labor productivity in all areas.

In accordance with the new concept, which is reflected in the new law, the production prices that will be applied beginning 15 April this year will be set on the basis of planned production costs for 1988—as a maximum limit that should not be exceeded—and on the basis of differentiated profitability depending on the purpose of products.

In the case of products earmarked for domestic use, the planned profitability is 6-12 percent, that is an average of 8 percent. To stimulate the fulfillment of production earmarked for export we have envisaged a higher profitability for products earmarked for export than that for products for domestic use, namely 10 percent for products delivered for convertible currency and 6 percent for products delivered to socialist countries on a clearing basis. At the same time, stimulating profitability has been envisaged also for raw materials and products of related industries which are delivered for the production of export products.

On the basis of the provisions of this draft law, enterprises are given an impetus to work toward reducing production costs in excess of plan tasks, considering that in the first year they will be able to reap the benefit of the entire additional profit and only 50 percent of it in the following 4 years, in accordance with the provisions of law.

Taking into consideration the new concept promoted in the area of prices, it is necessary for all sectors to work with responsibility and determination to cut production costs to achieve the planned production by strictly observing planned consumption norms and by working out new ways and means to continue to reduce energy and material consumption, to increase the proportion of recovered and reusable materials, parts, and subassemblies, by making full use of production capacities and work hours, and by increasing labor productivity.

The implementation of programs aimed at perfecting the organization and modernization of the production process drafted for branches, enterprises, and products and the observance of the financial-economic norms, which now apply to the majority of products in the economy, ensure the necessary conditions for properly applying the new production prices, for reducing production costs, and ensuring great profits on this basis. As Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu stressed at the meeting of the Political Executive Committee of 18 March this year and at the recent party Central Committee plenum, profits should not increase on the basis of price hikes but by reducing consumption and production costs. In the spirit of this guideline, repeatedly stressed by the party leadership, and in order to eliminate any kind of tendency toward achieving the commodity production value and profits by wasteful means, the draft law stipulates that any profit achieved through price hikes will entirely go to the state budget.

The law clearly defines the duty of leadership cadres in ministries and central departments, and in working people's councils in all areas to work with great responsibility to implement our programs, so that in 1988, a decisive year for the current 5-year plan, the major part of these programs will be implemented.

Taking account of the fact that these measures will be applied experimentally in 1988, whereupon the law will be finalized on the basis of conclusions drawn, and submitted to the Grand National Assembly by the end of 1988, it is necessary for the economic ministries and

industrial centrals, for the coordinating bodies—the State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Finance, the State Committee for Prices, and banking institutions—and for all responsible people with tasks in this area, as the party secretary general, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu has stressed, to work consistently to ensure the complete success of this effort of perfecting the financial-economic mechanism by improving the price setting system, and it is necessary for them to constantly pursue and solve problems that may arise during the experimental stage of this process.

Bearing in mind that the proposed measures will ensure an enhanced incentive for economic units and for working people's collectives to increase economic efficiency and profitability by manufacturing products of better quality and technical-economic parameters with ever lower expenses, we want to ask you, esteemed deputies, to adopt this draft law in its current form.

Bobu Offers Crime Report

AU101444 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 31 Mar 88 p 4

["Report on the Crime Rate in 1987, on Conclusions Resulting From the Application of Decrees Regarding Amnesty of Deeds and Reduction of Certain Punishments, and on the Activity of Trial Commissions, presented by Comrade Maria Bobu, minister of justice, at the Grand National Assembly Session" in Bucharest 30 March]

[Text] Much esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Elena Ceausescu, esteemed comrades:

Acting in the spirit of the party decisions, the country's laws, and the guidelines and recommendations made by Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, the bodies of the Ministry of Interior, the Prosecutor's Office, and judicial bodies, together with the revolutionary workers democracy bodies, have carried intensive activity to prevent, combat, and constantly curtail offenses, particularly offenses which are detrimental to the national wealth, to people's assets, public order and discipline or cause harm to the established legal system.

Through the originality of our regulations, systematically and harmoniously worded, our entire legal system formulated in the wake of the Ninth RCP Congress upon the initiative and with the decisive contribution of the party secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, is profoundly humane, democratic, and unparalleled in its way, and based on the ever broader participation of the working people in implementing the law, thus ensuring the best and firm protection for our people's wonderful revolutionary achievements.

On the basis of the party's ideological program and the extensive political-educational activity, the judicial bodies, in cooperation with educational ones, have worked to acquaint all working people with the substance and sociopolitical meaning of our country's laws to involve public opinion, to an ever greater extent, in creating an atmosphere of perfect order and lawfulness fully in keeping with the interests of our socialist society by also ensuring the application of the profoundly scientific concept formulated by the party secretary general according to which our main concern must focus on preventing offenses.

Raising the political-educational work to a qualitatively higher level, increasing and more vigorously affirming the socialist awareness of the working people, and the preventive actions taken by state bodies, together with the revolutionary workers democracy, have contributed to a considerable decrease in the crime rate.

Thus, in 1987 the number of crimes committed—ascertained by the judicial bodies—decreased by 33 percent compared to the preceding year, of which deeds to the detriment of public wealth decreased by 25 percent, offenses doing damage to individual wealth by 27.5 percent, while violent crimes decreased by 28 percent.

A more significant decrease in offenses was noted in the 15 September 1987-15 March 1988 period during which the number of offenses decreased by 59.2 percent; violent crimes decreased by 81 percent, disturbances of public order and calm by 73 percent, while offenses against public and individual wealth decreased by 50 percent and 54 percent respectively.

In the period that is covered by this report, the judicial bodies placed particular emphasis on rehabilitating through education on the job all those who violated the country's laws. This very efficient measure has enhanced the role of working people's collectives in supervising, reeducating, and positively influencing people sentenced to execute their punishment through work.

At the same time, greater attention was paid to measures aimed at the public influence of people whose penal offenses presented a minor social threat and the penal conviction of whom was assessed as redundant by the state bodies in accordance with provisions in the law. Thus the number of people, who through their deeds were proposed for being discussed by the working collectives to which they belong, increased by 56 percent, and the number of people entrusted to the working people, educational units, and to the family increased by 63 percent.

Judicial bodies have also paid greater attention to the application of legal regulations regarding the personal responsibility of juveniles, regulations which were formulated upon the initiative and with the decisive contribution of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, and which establish a

system of measures, especially of a preventive-educational nature, unparalleled by any other penal legislation, and permeated—as is our entire legislation—by the principle of socialist humanism and by the concern with and particular attention to focusing all efforts on educational measures which, through their fundamental aim, will mold the man for work and life.

The trial commissions instituted by law as civic bodies of influence and jurisdiction, through which we ensure the broad participation of the masses in the implementation of laws, the socialist education of our citizens in the spirit of promoting a correct attitude toward work and toward strengthening and developing public wealth, and commendable conduct in society are a telling expression of the profound revolutionary workers democracy in our country and of the enhanced role of public opinion in social life.

Thus, the almost 17,000 trial commissions in enterprises, cooperative and civic organizations, and those attached to the executive committees and bureaus of the people's councils, which incorporate more than 150,000 members elected from among the ranks of workers, peasants, and intellectuals, have made an important contribution through their activity to educating the working people in the spirit of respecting the rules of social coexistence and the norms of socialist ethics and equity. They are thus able to ensure, on the basis of advice rendered to the sides involved, a reconciliation in 34 percent of the cases in which, in accordance with provisions in the law, this possibility existed. In this way, normal relations of coexistence between the citizens involved were restored.

In other cases, the trial commissions applied measures involving civic influence, thus bringing about a decrease in cases of stealing public wealth and violating the rules of social coexistence. They have also contributed to strengthening work discipline and to protecting socialist ownership by solving cases involving charges for damage caused to units.

The profound humanism that characterizes our entire social life was very clearly reflected in the adoption, upon the initiative and at the proposal of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, of the acts of clemency of October 1987 and January 1988 which, through their unprecedented legal value and profoundly humane substance, were welcomed with great satisfaction by public opinion in our country, and enjoyed great international response. Aside from the fact that they amnestied and pardoned certain offenses and penalties, they actually ensured jobs for all amnestied people in keeping with their qualifications.

The judicial bodies, together with the people's councils and the working people's collectives, in which the amnestied people were incorporated, were able—through educational-preventive measures—to integrate a tremendous majority of these people into social life, while only an nominal number of them—some 0.6 percent—committed new offenses against which legal measures were taken.

We report that at this point there are some 7,500 people in our penitentiaries.

The bodies of the Ministry of Interior, of Justice, and the Prosecutor's Office, in close linkage with our revolutionary workers democracy and constantly in cooperation with the local party bodies, must continue to work with great determination to improve, diversify, and increase the efficiency of their activity to acquaint all our citizens with the country's laws and to make them observe these laws.

In all their activities, judicial bodies must struggle to ensure the resolute application in practice of the principle formulated by the party secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, according to which no one should be punished unjustly, while no violations or illegal deeds should be tolerated, but, at the same time, no one should go unpunished if he violates the country's laws and thus causes harm to our socialist system.

By constantly and firmly focusing on protecting the supreme assets of our socialist society and the independence and sovereignty of our beloved homeland, the Socialist Republic of Romania, we will always pay increased attention to developing the national wealth and to ensuring public order and discipline and an atmosphere of perfect lawfulness.

The bodies of the Ministry of Interior, of Justice, and the Prosecutor's Office, on this occasion too, pay warm homage to the outstanding personality of our party and state leader, the initiator and founder of the Romanian socialist law, which epitomizes the spirit of justice, humanity, and unshakable determination in protecting socialist legality and our people's peaceful work of building socialism, and the resolute determination to guarantee man's freedom and dignity.

We also pay warm homage to Comrade Elena Ceausescu, eminent militant of our party and state and scientist of wide international recognition for her decisive contribution to increasing the role of science, culture, and education in the process of educating the young generation and all working people in our country in the spirit of the party's ideological program.

Greatly mobilized by the concepts and guidelines put forward by the 13th RCP Congress and the RCP National Conference, the members of judicial bodies solemnly pledge before the Grand National Assembly and Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, that, by following his excellent example in work and life, they will work with

devotion, with all their energy and great determination to commendably fulfill the greatly responsible mission entrusted to them by the party and people.

Ciobanu Reports on Exports

AU101553 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 31 Mar 88 p 2

["Report on Draft Law on Improving the Remuneration System for Stimulating the Production Earmarked for Export and the Export Itself—presented by Comrade Lina Ciobanu, deputy prime minister of the Government at the Grand National Assembly Session"—on 30 March in Bucharest]

[Text] Much esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP Secretary General, President of the SR of Romania, much esteemed and beloved Comrade Elena Ceausescu, esteemed comrade deputies:

On the government's authorization, I submit to the Grand National Assembly [GNA] the draft law on improving the remuneration system for stimulating the production earmarked for export and the export itself. The draft law is a very important document for firmly applying the socialist principle of remuneration in accordance with the quantity, quality, and social importance of the work done, in keeping with the current stage of our socioeconomic development and with the requirements to further improve the new financial-economic mechanism.

The draft law submitted to discussion was worked out at the initiative and under the direct guidance of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, who is scientifically applying—with scientific, clearsighted, and original thinking—the generally valid principles and truths of scientific socialism to concrete conditions prevailing in our country.

The new measures included in the draft law reflect once more the realism and revolutionary daring of our party secretary general who—through a dialectical and comprehensive analysis of the improvement of socialist relations of work and distribution, in the light of current requirements for an intensive economic development—is firmly focusing attention on accentuating the qualitative aspects of development.

I would also like to stress the decisive contribution of Comrade Academician Doctor Engineer Elena Ceausescu, front-ranking militant of our party and chairman of the National Council for Science and Education, who, by promoting the latest achievements of science and technology in all fields of activity, has made and continues to make an outstanding contribution to developing international cooperation. Through her competent guidance given to us on this occasion, too, she has laid down a profound scientific foundation for all the measures included in the draft law.

Romania's ever more active participation in the world economic circuit and the international division of labor—a main goal of the current 5-year plan—requires a further and steady expansion of our production earmarked for export and an increase in the quality and competitiveness of the Romanian products on foreign markets.

In order to further stimulate the economic units and working people's collectives in fulfilling and exceeding the production earmarked for export and the export itself and in raising economic efficiency and also in order to firmly apply the principles of the new economic-financial mechanism—as stressed by Comrade Secretary General Nicolae Ceausescu at the recent Party Central Committee plenum—it is necessary to adopt new measures to give greater incentives to all working personnel participating the fulfillment of export tasks.

I report to the GNA that the new measures ensure an increase in the incomes of working people engaged in fulfilling production earmarked for export, through an increase in their remuneration fund. We thus give additional incentives to all personnel that participate in achieving the production earmarked for export and the export itself, something that proves once more our party's care for the working people and for raising their standard of living.

This increase will vary in accordance with the growth of the production earmarked for export and its share in the overall production achieved by each enterprise.

In order to fully benefit from the new incentives, the economic units and working people's collectives are duty bound to take all steps to properly organize export production, to fully achieve the export plans and contracts on schedule, and to turn out products of a high qualitative level, with high technical and functional parameters and with a reduced level of material and energy consumption, which can compete in all respects with the best products in the world.

Esteemed comrade deputies, in order to further stimulate the working personnel employed in achieving the production earmarked for export and the export itself, the draft law stipulates that the enterprises and industrial central departments that have fulfilled the export production should benefit from a higher remuneration fund, in accordance with the export production achieved in terms of hard currency and clearing.

The supplementary remuneration fund for stimulating exports will be set up by each enterprise and industrial central department whose plans stipulate export production tasks. This supplementary fund will be differentiated as follows: 10 percent of the planned remuneration fund for the commodity production earmarked for

export in hard currency and 6 percent of the planned remuneration fund for the commodity production earmarked for export to socialist countries, on the basis of clearing.

The supplementary remuneration fund for stimulating exports will be allocated in direct relationship with the degree of fulfillment of the export production plan in hard currency and clearing.

It is worthwhile mentioning the fact that the supplementary remuneration fund set up by enterprises and industrial central departments will be paid out to all personnel: workers, foremen, engineers, technicians, and other categories of personnel from sections, workshops, and other productive compartments, including those from the management of the respective enterprise and industrial central department, who have contributed to fulfilling the production earmarked for export and the export itself.

These incentives will also be applied to enterprises and industrial central departments with planned tasks on the delivery of raw and other materials, parts, and subassemblies that are incorporated in the export production of other enterprises. We will thus ensure greater incentives throughout the production circuit for executing, on schedule and under the best conditions, all operations required for the achievement of the production earmarked for export and the export itself.

The money representing the incentives for the production earmarked for export will be paid out on top of the due remuneration stipulated by the overall contract system and on top of other remuneration rights stipulated by law.

Likewise, no remuneration fund taxes will be imposed and no state social security dues will be charged on this supplementary remuneration fund for stimulating the production earmarked for export and export itself.

As Party Secretary General Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu said at the Central Committee plenum, by applying the measures included in the draft law submitted for discussion we will ensure both higher incentives and a simpler and more accessible form of stimulus for the working people engaged in fulfilling the production earmarked for export and export itself.

The draft law stipulates that the new incentive measures should be applied as of this year, beginning with 15 April, on an experimental basis.

The conclusions drawn from their experimental application will be submitted to the GNA discussion by the end of the year.

I express the conviction that the measures stipulated by the draft law will give further incentives to all working people's collectives to fulfill all plan tasks and all export contracts on schedule and to produce high quality items, thus increasing Romania's participation in the international division of labor and better using our people's work and creative power.

In light of all these considerations, I ask you, esteemed comrade deputies, to invest the current draft law with the power of law.

Dinca Reports on Economic Contracts

AU101835 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 31 Mar 88 p 3

["Report on the Draft Law on the Conclusion and Fulfillment of Economic Contracts—presented by Comrade Ion Dinca, first deputy prime minister of the Government at the Grand National Assembly Session," on 30 March in Bucharest]

[Text] Much beloved and esteemed Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the SR of Romania, much esteemed Comrade Elena Ceausescu, esteemed comrade deputies:

On authorization from the Council of Ministers, please allow me to submit the draft law on the conclusion and fulfillment of economic contracts to the Grand National Assembly [GNA] discussion and adoption.

Drafted at the initiative and with the direct contribution of Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the Republic, the draft law reflects his profoundly creating thinking and constant concern with establishing—in a high spirit of revolutionary exactingness—new measures capable of promoting the intensive factors of development, using material and monetary funds with greater efficiency, increasing the national wealth, and thus raising the well-being of the entire nation, the supreme goal of our party-state policy.

In accordance with our party's strategic choice of promoting the qualitative aspects of the country's socioeconomic development—a policy to whose elaboration and implementation a decisive contribution has been made by our much beloved and esteemed leader, Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu—the draft law regulates contractual relations in a new spirit, linked with the fulfillment of plan tasks and the enhancement of collective and personal responsibility in observing economic discipline.

In regulating these relations, the draft law relies on the principles of self-management, self-administration, and self-financing, in order to strengthen the responsibility of the working people's collectives and of collective management bodies, expand the state and cooperative socialist property; base economic relations on norms and regulations that are thoroughly substantiated from a technical and technological viewpoint, shorten supply and sale schedules, instill a climate of order and discipline in each unit and in the entire economy, and work in

such a way as to implement the provisions of the uniform national plan for the country's socioeconomic development with greater efficiency.

Proceeding from these principles, the draft law stipulates the obligation of contracting the production earmarked for the domestic market by 1 October—on the basis of plan indicators approved by State Council decrees—before the start of the annual plan execution.

Likewise, the draft law stipulates the obligation of concluding foreign contracts so that, by the time the annual plan is approved, its provisions on the production earmarked for export and other international economic cooperation ventures are substantiated by contracts that guarantee production sales and secure technical-material supplies.

In this respect, the draft law contains regulations on the development of economic exchanges of products, on the execution of operations or services on the basis of contracts alone, on securing payments, on the compulsory need to ensure that all units observe the prescribed stockpile norms, on forbidding the manufacture of products unless their sale on the domestic or foreign markets is assured, and on the responsibilities of the involved parties in delivering the established quantity and quality of products and observing other obligations assumed by contract.

The draft law particularly regulates the supply contracts, by taking into account the decisive role of the ties established between socialist units on the basis of these contracts in insuring an appropriate technical-material supply. In this respect, the draft law provides for supply contract clauses, that also cover the preparation of technical blueprints and orders for machines, equipment, and installations whose manufacture requires a longer period of time.

In the case of complex deliveries of equipment, tools, installations, and other products—in the manufacture of which several units are cooperating—one has established the rule that the consumer should conclude a single contact with the overall supplier. In his turn, the overall supplier will conclude cooperation contracts with the specialized units, in accordance with the clauses of the contract concluded between the overall supplier and consumer.

In the foreign trade sphere, the draft law establishes the principle according to which foreign contracts should ensure Romania's advantageous participation in the international division of labor, the expansion of our foreign exchanges, economic cooperation, and production sharing, and the substantiation and fulfillment of our foreign trade plan, while further increasing the country's technological potential.

Esteemed comrades, in order to increase the feeling of collective and personal responsibility, the draft law stipulates that, in each economic unit, the members of the Executive Bureau of the Working People's Council are responsible for taking the necessary steps to ensure a smooth unfolding of contractual links and the proper execution of concluded contracts. Increased responsibilities devolve on the economic ministries, the county peoples councils, the Bucharest Municipal People's Council, the central departments, the State Planning Committee, the Ministry of Technical-Material Supply and Control of Management of Fixed Assets, and the Ministry of Finance, which are duty bound to constantly supervise the conclusion and execution of contracts by all socialist units.

Esteemed deputies, as an expression of the profoundly democratic character of our socialist system, the present draft law was submitted to the discussion of the collective management bodies of large enterprises, central departments, and ministries and was improved on the basis of proposals made on those occasions.

Expressing the conviction that this new normative document will contribute to improving contractual relations—in accordance with the current and future requirements of our national economy—and to increasing the working people's responsibility in ensuring the smooth development of the economic activity, I ask you, esteemed deputies, to give your vote for the adoption by the GNA of the draft law on the conclusion and fulfillment of economic contracts.

Further on Reports

AU121814 [Editorial Report] Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian on 31 March on pages 3, 4, and 5 carries 18 reports ranging between 300 and 1,000 words on speeches made by various deputies at the 30 March Grand National Assembly [GNA] session in Bucharest. All the speeches, which total about 12,000 words, deal in general terms with various facets of socioeconomic activity, with particular emphasis on Nicolae Ceausescu's, and occasionally Elena Ceausescu's, "great role in fashioning Romania's overall domestic and foreign policy." Most speakers talk about achievements and concerns in their particular spheres, admit the existence of failures, assume full responsibility for them, pledge to work better and harder in the future, and express approval for the "scientifically substantiated draft laws submitted to the GNA endorsement."

Miu Dobrescu is the only full member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee—and chairman of the General Union of Romanian Trade Unions—whose speech is reported (in 600 words, on page 4). He mainly discusses the provisions of the new law on wealth control being examined by the GNA and calls for "greater firmness in combatting any violations of the principles of socialist

ethics and equity." He also praises "our socialist, revolutionary humanism, a telling expression of which was the recent State Council Decree on Amnesty of Certain Crimes and Reduction of Certain Punishments."

Cornel Pacoste, candidate member of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and chairman of the National Council of Agriculture, Food Industry, Silviculture, and Water Management, mainly refers to agricultural issues and says that "in spite of the results scored last year," they "were not up to the existing possibilities in each county and unit." The report on his speech emphasizes that "all necessary steps were taken to increase the pace and quality of agricultural operations" this spring.

Speeches by the following candidate members of the PEC of the RCP Central Committee and first secretaries of county party committees are also reported: Ioachim Moga, for Cluj County; Iosif Szasz, for Caras-Severin County; Maria Ghitulica, for Iasi County; and Ilie Matei, for Timis County. These speakers deal briefly with achievements at local level and extensively praise Ceausescu's "great merits."

SCINTEIA also reports the following speeches by prominent figures: Pavel Aron, minister of transportation and telecommunications, who says that "plan tasks for the freight and passenger transportation and for the industrial commodity production will be exceeded by more than 100 million lei" in the first quarter of 1988; Ilie Vaduva, minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation, who says that his ministry "has drawn all necessary lessons and conclusions" from the criticism made by President Nicolae Ceausescu and will take "resolute steps to completely eliminate negative states of affairs and lags"; and Ioan Toma, first secretary of the Union of Communist Youth, who talks about tasks incumbent upon the young generation in "fulfilling plan provisions for this year."

Developing Countries Hold Ministerial Meeting

Addressed by Mojsov

LD111401 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0858 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—"The agreement on the Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP), due to be signed in Belgrade, will crown the efforts made by our countries over a period of many years. It is up to us to make it something more than that—a stimulus for self-confidence and a more resolute view of the future." So said Lazar Mojsov, president of the SFRY Presidency, as he opened the ministerial meeting on the establishment of the GSTP among the developing countries.

Speaking in the Belgrade Sava Center today to the representatives of about 60 delegations, Lazar Mojsov recalled that the GSTP agreement will be inaugurated in the very city where more than a quarter of a century ago the first nonaligned head of state or government conference was held. At that great and historic conference, which signalled the beginning of the international action by a new alternative policy and philosophy of the way the international relations were viewed, for the first time, said Mojsov, attention was drawn to the development problems. The result was the initiative to hold a special nonaligned conference in Cairo in 1962 devoted to the questions of the economic and social development of the newly liberated countries.

Mojsov assessed the meeting today as the result of a successful phase of negotiations, especially of the meetings in Delhi and Brasilia, and he made the evaluation that the GSTP is the first very important step.

Having pointed out the exceptional vitality of the Nonaligned Movement and the Group of 77, President Mojsov stressed that the GSTP represents "the first concrete global agreement of a contractual nature between the developing countries. As such, it is endowed with an important cohesive force to strengthen the political unity and solidarity of the Group of 77 members and their position in the global relations and in the dialogue with the developed world."

"We expect direct positive effects in reciprocal commodity exchange. However, we would also like this agreement to be an incentive for other forms of mutual economic cooperation. It is, therefore, important that the second round of negotiations be tackled as soon as possible. This round should expand and enrich the reciprocal preferential trade system and should contribute to the promotion of industrial, technological, financial, and other forms of cooperation between the developing countries," said Mojsov.

As stressed by the president of the SFRY Presidency, these directions of activity are along the line of reliance on one's own forces and resources of the developing countries. No one's essential economic or national interests will be affected as a result. Greater reliance on one's own resources will make it possible for the developing countries to become a stronger economic partner of the developed world. The complementary nature of the world economy, said Mojsov, imposes as an economic necessity the transfer of technology, expansion of markets, and structural changes that optimally satisfy the interests of both the developed and developing countries. This is why this kind of mutual economic cooperation is neither isolation nor autarky. It is a passport to development and an additional recommendation for cooperation with the part of the world that possesses enormous and inadequately tapped potentials, in short, for economic fusion [prozimanje] of the North and South through cooperation on an equal footing.

In the area of international trade, despite solemn commitments that new protectionist measures will not be introduced and that the existing measures will be reduced, as will more favorable and nonreciprocal treatment of the developing countries, the practice has been exactly the opposite. Nor are the present GATT negotiations in the Uruguayan round very encouraging for the developing countries, added Mojsov. He pointed out that there are more and more protectionist measures, discrimination, grading, and imposition of conditions. The situation is similar, he said, in other areas of economic relations—in the transfer of technology, industrial development, and especially the monetary-financial sphere. The leading developing countries and groups are shifting the negative affects of their own adaptation, conflicts of reciprocal interests, and imbalances onto their substantially weaker partners, the developing countries.

In this world, richer than ever before, poverty is the biggest epidemic. A catastrophic slump in the price of raw materials, the general trend of deteriorating trade terms over a period of many years, the exceptionally high rates of interest, and other difficult conditions in servicing the debts have brought about the absurd situation where the poor finance the rich while their limited resources are filtered into the developed countries. "The net inflow of capital from the commercial banks has virtually ceased. New loans are granted only for the repayment of old loans. The debtors have become net exporters of capital—in the direction of the rich and industrially developed countries. The overall investments into the economy of the debtor countries are barely at the level of simple reproduction, while during the same time the growth in the developed countries is slowing down and protectionism is waxing strong," said Mojsov.

He also pointed out that today "the creditors are aware of the fact that the development and an appropriate growth rate, as well as an increase in export revenue by the debtor countries, are one of the conditions for the way out of the crisis and virtually the only way for the debts to be repaid, and that the conditions have to be

created through joint efforts to allow the debtor countries to obtain the resources required to accelerate development and also to service the debts."

Having recalled the significant initiatives in Acapulco, the special summit of OAU in Addis Ababa, and also the actions agreed on in the UN General Assembly and at the 7th UNCTAD, the president of the SFRY Presidency pointed out the need for an urgent quest for a joint, global, substantial, and lasting solution for the problem of the debts of the developing countries. "Starvation, poverty, unemployment, and the hopelessness of more than 1 billion people in the least developed countries has been called, not without reason, "a new time bomb, not less lethal to stability, peace, and security in the world than nuclear bombs, with which we have learned to cope," said Mojsov.

In the absence of a dialogue with the developed world, "we simply do not have any choice but to go on fighting for the formation of a different kind of mentality in international relations—a mentality that allows the convergence of views and the perception of joint interests, two-way and global solutions so as to avoid fresh and even more dangerous international upheavals and threats to peace," stressed the president of the SFRY Presidency. He reiterated his conviction "that the GSTP will not stop at this agreement and that it will have continued development, not because this will be proclaimed in the declaration of this meeting or because the paths of cooperation with the developed world are thorny and impassable. The continuity of this process is a necessity and one of the conditions if we want a visa for modern development processes in the world," said Mojsov.

"If we apply, expand, and promote it consistently, we shall acquire a tangible advantage in the shape of new export opportunities, increased production, employment, and investment so that at long last we can become protagonists of our own development and equal partners in the progress of international community," said Lazar Mojsov in conclusion.

Mojsov Meets UN Official

LD120442 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1353 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, April 11 (TANJUG)—President of the Yugoslav State Presidency Lazar Mojsov today received Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Kenneth Dadzie who is attending a ministerial conference of the developing countries on the global system of trade preferences in Belgrade.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on topical problems of international economic relations, focusing on the difficult situation of the developing countries. They underlined the need for improving conditions for promoting developing countries' mutual cooperation, which is one of the objectives of the three-day ministerial meeting which opened in Belgrade today.

Declaration Issued

LD130945 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0906 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, 13 April (TANJUG)—The first global effort by developing countries that are members of the Group of 77 to strengthen mutual economic cooperation on the basis of a specific document has borne fruit, it is stressed in the Belgrade declaration adopted this morning by participants in the Belgrade ministerial meeting.

The declaration stresses that the agreement between the participating countries represents an important contribution and instrument for the more rapid expansion of trade and general economic cooperation among all developing countries, and for the more just and balanced development of the world economy and international economic relations.

The participants in the Belgrade meeting stressed in the declaration that the adoption of an agreement on a global system of trade preferences represents a historical advance of great political and economic importance.

Further Reportage on Visit of EC's Cheysson

Working Group Holds Session

LD121416 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1740 GMT 11 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, 11 Apr (TANJUG)—Today in Belgrade the first meeting was held by a working group of the SFRY and the EEC at a high political level. The delegation of the EEC Commission was led by Claude Cheysson, member of the EEC Commission, and the Yugoslav delegation by Dr Oskar Kovac, FEC member and chairman of the FEC commission for coordinating cooperation between the SFRY, the EEC, EFTA, and the OECD.

In the resolution on future relations between the SFRY and the EEC adopted at the last session of the council for cooperation between the SFRY and the EEC in December 1987, it was envisaged that the existing working group should, as the need arises, also meet at a high political level, with the aim of advancing and creating conditions for the expansion of cooperation between the SFRY and the EEC. This should be on the basis of the Belgrade declaration and the agreement on cooperation between the SFRY and the EEC. The measures and activities that the EEC is undertaking to create a united market should also be borne in mind. The first meeting of this working group considered issues relating to the broadening of cooperation in those spheres that are insufficiently exploited on the basis of the existing agreement between the SFRY and the EEC.

In this connection a comprehensive exchange of opinions took place on financial cooperation in the broad sense. Particular attention was paid to the problem of Yugoslavia's indebtedness and the EEC's position on this issue. The Yugoslav side also gave a review of the reform of the economic system and the effect of these changes in creating conditions for the encouragement of joint investments. Also considered in detail in the talks were open questions in the sphere of trade, particularly institutional solutions for access for Yugoslav iron and steel industry products to the EEC market and the increasingly frequent antidumping measures that the Community is undertaking against the exports of certain Yugoslav products in this sector, which comprises an important part of overall Yugoslav exports to the EEC.

In view of integrational processes inside the Community, from which Yugoslavia as a significant partner cannot be detached, on this occasion as well the participants discussed a number of questions that could influence mutual relations. They identified areas on which views should be unchanged at the level of experts, so that at the next meeting of this working group appropriate stands could be adopted. In view of the interest of Yugoslavia and the EEC countries of the Mediterranean area, within the framework of the exchange of views in the working group they also discussed questions of regional cooperation, primarily in the area of tourism and environmental protection.

Scientific-technological and technical cooperation, which is a prerequisite for establishing higher forms of economic cooperation, and which has so far been a subject of joint activities, was assessed as an area in which a greater breakthrough could be made. Taking into consideration this fact, it was assessed that it would be necessary to start finding new institutionalized solutions to create conditions for widening cooperation in this area as well. In this connection particular interest was shown in the participation of Yugoslav business subjects in joint research projects of the Community.

They also exchanged views on cooperation in transportation, which is a significant element of overall relations, in particular starting from the position of Yugoslavia as a transit and neighboring country that links parts of the European Community.

In view of the fact that most Yugoslav workers temporarily employed abroad work in the EEC countries, our side devoted special attention to this question. It expressed expectations to the effect that this meeting of the working group will contribute to creating conditions envisaged by the agreement and accompanying documents for the protection of position and promotion of interests of our citizens who live and work in EEC countries.

At the meeting of the working group, the participants also established a program of future activities. They agreed that the next meeting of the groups should be held this fall before a session of the council for SFRY-EEC cooperation. Within the framework of this program, they identified questions of priority importance on the basis of which in the forthcoming period at the level of experts appropriate proposals would be formulated, and on the basis of which the working group at a high political level at the next meeting would adopt stands and propose that the council for cooperation adopt appropriate decisions, conclusions, and suggestions.

Received by Mikulic

LD121942 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1402 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Apr (TANJUG)—In Belgrade today Branko Mikulic, president of the FEC, received Claude Cheysson, member of the EC Commission, who is on an official visit to our country. The talks were also attended by Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs.

Mikulic and Cheysson exchanged views on relations between Yugoslavia and the EC, Mediterranean cooperation, the status of developing countries, and the resolution of the debt problem. They noted that all the conditions for expanding relations and cooperation between Yugoslavia and the EC exist. This especially refers to cooperation in the field of transportation, the construction of infrastructural installations, electronics, and tourism.

They concluded that it is necessary to create conditions as soon as possible for Yugoslavia to join the EC program for scientific and technological research. They noted that in future relations with the EC Yugoslavia should have the same treatment as the EFTA countries, with Yugoslavia's nonaligned policy fully recognized. This policy, says Cheysson, is exceptionally valued by the EC. The EC considers nonaligned Yugoslavia an important factor for European stability.

Mikulic and Cheysson also examined a number of questions concerning cooperation in the Mediterranean. They noted that the intensification of cooperation between the Mediterranean countries could contribute both to efforts to resolve some economic problems and to consolidate peace and security in the region. The ministerial meeting of the Balkan countries has created a good basis for stimulating similar cooperation between all the Mediterranean countries by means of promoting relations and cooperation in the Balkans.

Special attention during the Mikulic-Cheysson talks was devoted to the debt problem of developing countries. It was stressed that it is essential to start a dialogue as soon as possible between debtors and creditors with the aim of reaching suitable solutions in the interest of both debtors and creditors.

The interests of creditors could also seriously be threatened and major difficulties could arise in international exchange and the international monetary system unless conditions are ensured for the development and speedier growth of production in debtor countries.

Received by Mojsov

LD121951 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1502 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Apr (TANJUG)—President of the SFRY Presidency Lazar Mojsov received Member of the EC Commission Claude Cheysson who is on an official visit to our country.

At the meeting, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, opinions were exchanged on some aspects of relations between Yugoslavia and the EC, in the context of wider efforts for the advancement of overall economic, technological, and financial cooperation with Western countries and institutions.

Also discussed were trends for integration in Europe and the need for the wider involvement of European countries in solving development problems of developing countries and contributing to their involvement in the international division of labor.

Also taking part in the talks were Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar, and other officials.

Holds News Conference

LD122007 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1735 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, April 12 (TANJUG)—Europe's "twelve" should show more understanding for Yugoslavia's current economic and financial difficulties, member of the European Community (EC) Commission Claude Cheysson told a press conference here today.

At the end of a two-day visit to Yugoslavia, Cheysson said he would propose that the EC countries' governments approve to Yugoslavia a short-term bridging loan over the next few weeks, until the funds under the existing arrangement with the International Monetary Fund and other creditors begin to come in. The senior EC official estimated the loan at several hundred million dollars.

Cheysson assessed Yugoslavia's balanced trade at the end of 1987 and the beginning of this year as a real signpost for future Yugoslavia-EC cooperation, but not its ultimate achievement.

The future of Yugoslavia-EC relations lies in developing the advanced forms of economic and technological cooperation, Cheysson said. He added that Yugoslavia, owing to an extremely high share of highly trained personnel, is already well prepared for such cooperation.

Announcing the early signing by Yugoslavia and the EC of an agreement on technology transfer and scientific cooperation, Cheysson said that mutual efforts in this field must be "ambitious." The same applies to foreign investments in Yugoslavia's economy and cooperation in tourism and transport, in which the EC takes a strong interest. Cheysson however noted that the amount of foreign investments will greatly depend on the scope of the announced liberalization of Yugoslav regulations.

Cheysson did not see Yugoslavia's nonaligned foreign policy, which the EC respects, as an obstacle to the development of "comprehensive and special" relations between Yugoslavia and the community, similar to those which "the twelve" have with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries.

Cheysson highly assessed the role which Yugoslavia as a nonaligned country plays in Europe and the world, and especially its contribution to the multilateral agreements aimed at strengthening detente during and after the Helsinki meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). He pointed out the importance of the Nonaligned Movement which, as a non-bloc factor, can contribute to the initiated process of detente in international relations. put with items on international trade conference

President Mikulic To Visit FRG

LD122103 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1417 GMT 12 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, 12 April (TANJUG)—FEC President Branko Mikulic will officially open an exhibition at the Hanover international trade fair on 20 April entitled "Yugoslavia—a Partner-Country." The opening will be attended by Federal Chancellor Kohl and other prominent political and economic officials of the FRG.

The day before this, FEC President Mikulic and Chancellor Kohl will hold talks at the formal opening of the Hanover 88 international trade fair.

It is also expected that on this occasion they will hold separate talks on bilateral relations between the two countries and other issues of mutual interest.

LCY Presidium Holds Session Open to Public

LD130954 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0806 GMT 13 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, 13 Apr (TANJUG)—Following its own decision and that of the Central Committee, as well as calls from the party and from the broad public, the LCY Central Committee Presidium has held, in Belgrade, its first session that is open to the public. To begin, the work of the top party organ is being followed by journalists from only four editorial staffs, but after the initial experience at this method of working, the circle of "onlookers" will probably be widened to include the other editorial staffs as well.

The first discussion "in view of" the public was devoted to the delegate systems and the tasks of the LCY in its further development. It was assessed that some problems in the functioning of the delegate system noted right at the start, are today half way through the fourth mandate, manifesting themselves in even more acute forms. In view of this and in view of the fact that the current economic crisis demands a far more effective delegate system, the duty of the LC to concern itself constantly with this problem was stressed. At the same time, the public discussion of the constitutional amendments is an opportunity and creates an obligation for the LC, and particularly for its organs to involve themselves more effectively in seeking the best solutions. It was stressed that this does not mean limiting the discussion and prejudicing its decisions, but, on the contrary, it means it is the duty of Communists to hold an open and democratic dialogue in society.

LCY's Orlandic Talks About Economic Crisis

LD080845 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1057 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Bar, 7 Apr (TANJUG)—The depth and complex nature of the crisis, which has been going on for too long and which continues to exacerbate, have objectively speaking endangered the fundamental values of our system and the achievements of our revolution. The crisis in relations has led to a deteriorating economic crisis and a crisis in society in general. Too much time has been lost in arguing over what should be changed in both the economic and political systems and in the Constitution. This led to an increase in the number of contradictions that continued to exacerbate. These assessments were made by Marko Orlandic, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, when addressing the political aktiv of the town of Bar last night. The current situation in the country and its international position were the main topics on the agenda.

He stressed that socialist Yugoslavia is going through the most serious and complex period in its development so far. Orlandic warned that no one with socialist and patriotic inclinations could afford to sit and watch what is going on.

Since current developments are taking a direction that does not seem to have good prospects, Orlandic stressed that these should be finally thwarted and halted. This would thus provide gradual but safe prospects for the stable development of society's production forces and production relations on the basis of socialist self-management. In his view we still have enough strength to accomplish this and, although the situation has not reached its fatal point, it requires a fundamental reconstruction of both the economic and political systems and a comprehensive renewal in the LCY. According to Orlandic, the way out of the increasingly difficult economic situation lies in an urgent and comprehensive transformation of the economic system with radically heightened responsibility for the adoption and implementation of economic policy measures. [passage omitted]

There have been problems in the functioning of the system, serious deformations in society, such as the Agrokomerc affair, a tendency to disregard responsibility, and malfunctioning in the federation. There have also been shortcomings in the electoral system, especially those in direct elections, tendencies toward disintegration and separatism, strong statist tendencies in the system of social reproduction and, in particular, polycentric statism and bureaucratism. Finally, there has been the need for self-management to develop as an integral system, from the base up to the federation. These things call for, according to Orlandic, changes more radical than those proposed. Lack of understanding for and delays in bringing about these changes would encourage even more such things and other kinds of negative tendencies. They would also cause the further exacerbation and escalation of the economic and social crisis. In his view, we must not allow this to happen.

Orlandic also stressed that the constitutional changes should provide scope for reducing administration, for speeding up the process of democratization, and for abolishing those organs that have become an obstacle to the processes of democratization and socialization in the areas of protecting the constitutional order, all-people's defense and social self-protection, and foreign affairs. In this context he recommended, as his personal stand, the abolition of the presidencies of the republics and provinces and suggested that their powers should be transferred to delegate assemblies and their executive organs.

Orlandic went on to warn that some forces are attempting to use the democratically conducted public debate on constitutional changes for promoting their own programs in the form of the so-called "contribution to the Public Debate on the Constitution." In his view, these are, in fact, attempts to promote reactionary and counterrevolutionary alternatives and class revanchism.

Nationalist and counterrevolutionary pamphlets of this kind, programs and activities are, according to Orlandic, causing growing concern among the working people and citizens. These things are reminding them of those bleak times of fratricidal destruction and of all that led to the disgraceful capitulation of the prewar regime and the price in blood that all our people had to pay as a consequence of the policy and relations that are now being advocated by some circles within the ranks of the so-called humanitarian intelligentsia. The time has come for these usurpers of democracy to be totally exposed and thwarted in their activity, Orlandic said.

He went on to describe the notorious crude attacks by some sections of the press on the system of all-people's defense and the Yugoslav People's Army as intensified

antisocialist and anticommunist activity by individuals and groups aimed at undermining and destroying the country's contitutional order.

Orlandic made special reference to the significance of the coming LCY conference. The fact that, despite the 13th LCY congress, the situation in society has not changed for the better and has, in fact, considerably deteriorated and become more exacerbated in the post-congress period has imposed a need for an LCY conference. The conference, Orlandic noted, is envisioned by the statute as a method of the Central Committee's work. However, in the situation of an increasingly deep and complex crisis, it must surpass its mere consultative function and provide a strong impetus for comprehensive and binding changes in both society and the LCY. Having stressed that over the entire preceding period, since the first and more obvious signs of the crisis, the LCY is not without its stands and comprehensive programs, Orlandic noted that in practice the LCY has, however, failed to win the struggle for their implementation and, by implication, to emerge as a leading vanguard force of society in mobilizing its members and the working people and citizens in executing the adopted stands.

In the LC, in Orlandic's view, there are people who advocate various ideological views, from unitarist-centralist to bourgeois-liberalist ones. In some enviroments, especially the intellectual ones, some LC members not infrequently assume a passive and neutral attitude to the individuals and groups who promote, in an increasingly aggressive manner, basically reactionary and counterrevolutionary alternatives or who are even their own champions. Often and stubbornly, national interests are being glorified to the detriment of class interests.

Instead of national interests and class interests functioning jointly, the idea of superior national interests has led to the formation of national economies, has hampered the functioning of a common Yugoslav market, has given rise to the claims about the pillage, that is, the economic exploitation of one nation by another, and has encouraged increasingly overt distintegrational and separatist tendencies. [passage omitted]

Orlandic believes that the preparations for and the outcome of the coming conference should provide a strong stimulus to the fundamental transformation and comprehensive reconstruction in the LC. Both of these would proceed from democratic foundations, from the LC program, and from the desire to decisively destroy the strong and frequently deformed remnants of a party in power, the party-state collusion, sectarianism, bureaucratism, and insularity. [transmission interrupted, TANJUG parts 7 and 8 not received]

Thanks to the well-known principled stance of our country in relation to current global and regional international problems, the reputation and status of Yugoslavia, in Orlandic's view, are not weakening to the same extent to which the internal unsettled state of affairs and the crisis are getting worse. Yugoslavia goes on being an influential factor in international relations, he said.

Orlandic described the Balkan countries ministerial meeting and the visit to our country by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, as two very important international manifestations that were carried out very successfully. The ministerial meeting, the first such meeting in the history of our peninsula, represents a contribution to building a favorable atmosphere and climate of hightened trust in the Balkans. However, by virtue of the meeting, Orlandic stressed, the major differences and problems in bilateral relations among the Balkan countries have not been overcome.

Bu virtue of its successful outcome, Mikhail Gorbachev's visit, which culminated in the adoption of the joint Yugoslav-Soviet declaration, according to Orlandic, represents an event of great importance. He stressed that the visit took place in a period of broadly developed relations and of comprehensive, stable, and mutually useful cooperation between the SFRY and the USSR and between the LCY and the CPSU. This development of relations and cooperation, he added, was possible thanks to the strict respect for the principles implicit in the Belgrade and Moscow declarations.

He also stressed that the importance of the visit is increased by the conditions in which it took place. In this connection he recalled that the April 1985 plenum of the CPSU Central Committee started deep economic and political reforms in the Soviet Union within the restructuring program ambit that entailed debureaucratization and democratization of social life and dedogmatization of Soviet theory and practice. This, Orlandic stressed, is of great significance for the development of socialism in the Soviet Union and also for reaffirmation and development of socialism in the world.

The internal reforms undertaken in the USSR under Gorbachev's leadership have helped the formulation of the Soviet Union's "new thinking" on the international level. Soviet foreign policy is also gaining in pace and is increasingly channelled into disarmament problems, especially those of nuclear disarmament, and also into a quest for solutions to other global problems and regional focal points of crisis. These new tendencies on the international level in which Yugoslavia and the USSR—on the basis of their well-known different international position—have a prominent position and role have also increased the broader international importance of the visit, Orlandic said.

The well-known stands in the documents adopted in Belgrade and in Moscow in 1955 and 1956, respectively, were reaffirmed. In the new declaration these principles were placed in a wider context in a way that will ensure their durability and universality. The declaration laid the foundation for further comprehensive, stable, and

mutually useful development and cooperation. A contribution to this will also be made by the long-term program of economic cooperation in the period ending in the year 2000, the agreement on the opening of a Yugoslav cultural information center in Moscow, and other forms of mutual cooperation. The declaration robustly and consistently reasserts our country's independent and nonaligned position, as well as the new policy of the USSR on the international levels that deserves attention and support, Orlandic stressed.

The declaration forcefully stressed democratic principles in relations and cooperation between progressive and democratic parties and movements, confirmed the diversity of the roads into socialism, and refused to accept anyone's monopoly on truth. In fact, this is, Orlandic said, a consistent affirmation of the independence and equality of parties and movements and of their sovereign right to decide for themselves about the directions of the development of their country and their accountability solely to their own class and people. What this is all about is a full affirmation of the very principles that were the basic cause of the conflict between the LCY and the CPSU and the Information Bureau in 1948. "The new thinking" of the CPSU since Mikhail Gorbachev's leadership has helped lessons to be learned from 1948 leaving behind for ever, in so doing, we hope, the well-known conflicts of the past. This will strengthen mutual trust and will ensure the stability of our cooperation on the established principled basis, Orlandic stressed.